



A **Tropical Birding** SET DEPARTURE tour

Southern Ecuador:
Highland Rarities & Tumbesian Endemics

Main Tour: 7th – 23rd January 2022



This tour featured a remarkable variety of birds and habitats in this exciting birding region, and this included many rare and local bird species, like this **White-necked Parakeet** photographed in the cloudforests in the foothills on the east slope of the Andes. This endangered species may only number a few thousand individuals, confined to Southern Ecuador and a tiny part of northern Peru too. (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

Guided by **Sam Woods**

*Birds in the photos within this report are denoted in **RED**, all photos by Sam Woods.*

INTRODUCTION:

This Southern Ecuador tour is *always* an incredible trip, and this one was no different. What made it so fascinating was the combination of very high numbers of birds (this is one of our biggest trip totals of any South American tour), and a wide variety of absorbing habitats. As we moved from one scenic site to another, we added very different birds in each place, with the changing habitats and therefore changing bird communities associated with them. It is a guide's favorite tour for very good reason!

This tour was almost the same as our "usual" main tour (it is changing to one day longer from 2023, however), although the last two days/sites were missed. With this in mind, we got a very healthy number of birds, with just under **590 species recorded** in spite of no extension included and two days shaved off of the regular itinerary. Some of the standout bird groups included around *60 different hummingbirds*, *75+ tanagers*, *8 toucans*, *15 parrots*, *14 woodpeckers*, *2 umbrellabirds*, **an exceptional 11 owls seen** (Tropical Birding's biggest single owl count for an Ecuador tour to date), plus *manakins*, *trogons*, *motmots*, a *screamer*, a *crescentchest*, and much, much more!



This tour was exceptional for OWLS. Through plenty of fortune, hard work and diligence, the group were able to see **11 different species of owl**, with this species, the rare and famously difficult **Buff-fronted Owl** in *Jorupe* being the pick of the bunch (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).



We started out in Ecuador's most populous city, coastal *Guayaquil*, where we started out in humid forest where (**Pacific**) **Royal Flycatcher** (photo left), and **Jet Antbird** headlined early on. Birding local wetlands also yielded several hulking **Horned Screamers**, while a mangrove visit produced the hoped for **Rufous-necked Wood-Rail**, which was oddly not a lifebird for all, as some had seen the remarkable New Mexico bird! From there, we moved up into the foothills of the Andes on the *western slope*, where the *Neotropical Cloudforest* held displaying **Club-winged Manakin** and **Long-wattled Umbrellabird**, and we also got to see the rare **El Oro Parakeet** mating. We moved next to the dry southwest *Tumbesian* region, which gave us **White-tailed Jay**, **Ecuadorian Trogon**, **Whooping Motmot**, **Rufous-necked and Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaners**, **Watkins's Antpitta**, **Elegant Crescentchest**, **Ecuadorian Piculet**, **Tumbes Tyrant** and 3 species of owl, including the tricky **Buff-fronted Owl**, (photo page 2), a major trip highlight. In the southwest highlands near there, we added the cute, **Black-crested Tit-Tyrant**, the brutish **Black-cowled Saltator**, the outlandish **Rainbow Starfrontlet** and glistening **Purple-throated Sunangel**.

Moving over on to the eastern side of the Andes we added yet more *hummingbirds*,

including **Neblina Metaltail** in treeline shrubbery at *Cerro Toledo*, while within the wet cloudforests at *Tapichalaca* we had a 4-antpitta morning, with the rare and local **Jocotoco Antpitta** being the obvious winner from this group. **Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan** was also notable there, as was **White-throated Screech-Owl** by night and **Maranon Thrush** downslope from there, by day. Moving into the far southeast, we made a special stop to admire a dramatic male **Spangled Coquette**, feeding near some **Little Woodstars**, at a small private reserve near *Yantzaza*, which arrived later than we would have liked! The next major stop was around *Maycu Reserve* in the foothills, where the standout bird was **Orange-throated Tanager**, supported by **White-bellied Pygmy-Tyrant**, **Lanceolated Monklet**, the rare **Blackish Pewee**, and **Golden-collared Toucanet**, with **Hoatzins** there bringing a taste of the Amazon too. A **Band-bellied Owl** posing just outside our lodge was also very much appreciated. We swapped one foothill site for another, when we visited the wonderful *Copalinga Lodge* after that, where some of the best food of the tour featured.

The lodge grounds also brought us the burly **Gray Tinamou**, and a series of *hummingbirds*, including **Pale-tailed Barbthroat**. The nearby *Podocarpus National Park* brought us super close ups of the near endemic **White-necked (breasted) Parakeet**, several amazing encounters with a male **Amazonian Umbrellabird**, and a gorgeous male **Striolated (Striped) Manakin**, and the more subdued **Foothill Elaenia**, along with a swathe of multicolored foothill **tanagers**, including **Paradise and Golden-eared Tanagers**.

From there, we headed north and “uphill” to the highland town of *Saraguro*, via a belated **Coppery-chested Jacamar** near *Zamora* and a roosting **Koepcke’s Screech-Owl** in suburban *Loja*. *Saraguro* was our launching pad for several high Andean sites, starting with several *cloudforest* and *elfin forest* sites, which gave us cracking looks at **Ocellated Tapaculo**, a giant polka-dotted species watched hooping around a bamboo with us, a pair of gorgeous **Golden-crowned Tanagers** and **Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers**, and a trio of **Red-faced Parrots** downslope from there were notable for being rare and also giving great looks in the late afternoon as they foraged in the forest canopy. Finally, we reached our finale for the tour, a visit to the *paramo grassland and shrubbery* on *Cerro de Arcos*, an isolated peak, which hosted the rare and beautiful **Blue-throated Hillstar**, a hummingbird only described in 2018. Other highlights there included **Black-tailed Trainbearer**, **Shining Sunbeam**, **Jameson’s (Andean) Snipe**, and a low flying **Andean Condor**, Ecuador’s national bird, to close out an extremely successful circuit-come-road-trip through Southern Ecuador’s best birding sites.



A mischievous troop of **White-fronted Capuchins** came by to raid the feeders at *Copalinga Lodge* (*Sam Woods*).

DAILY SUMMARY:**Day 1 (of birding): 8th January – Guayaquil to Manglares Charute, Puerto Jeli & Buenaventura.**

This **Peruvian Pygmy-Owl** at *Manglares Charute* was our first owl of the tour; we ended up seeing 11 different owl species! (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

After meeting in Ecuador's steamy humid business capital, *Guayaquil*, the evening before, we set off at dawn for *Manglares Charute*, an area with coastal mangroves, wetlands and humid forest, around an hour south of there. A quick pit stop on the way produced our first, incidental, birds of the tour, including **Ecuadorian Ground-Dove** and a **Black-cheeked Woodpecker** clamped to a forecourt side tree. However, our first major birding site of the tour, and first birds there were emblematic of the tour in general, we pulled over for a tiny owl sitting by the roadside, which turned out to be a **Peruvian Pygmy-Owl** (*photo above*). It was representative of the tour, as it was a regional specialty on a tour that featured many of these, and it was also an owl, and this tour ended up being our most successful owl tour in the country, ever! This was to be the first of **ELEVEN OWLS SEEN** by the tour end, (and we missed a few, damn it!) Not long after we entered the buggiest forest trail of the tour, we spent as little time as possible there for good reason, but still managed to see a (**Pacific**) **Royal-Flycatcher** (*photo page 3*), or two while there, our main target species. **Jet Antbird** was also seen by the road near there too, our other "main" avian objective.

Everything else there was therefore merely “padding”, but some of that list was pretty nice too, and included **Ecuadorian Trogon**, **Pacific Parrotlet**, **Gray-cheeked Parakeet**, **Fulvous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant**, **Gray-and-gold Warbler**, **“Mangrove” Yellow Warbler**, and a lengthy viewing of a **Scarlet-backed Woodpecker**, not to mention several **Mantled Howler** monkeys by the morning’s end. We also familiarised ourselves with a common regional endemic, the feisty **Fasciated Wren**. Wetlands in this area also yielded plentiful **Snail Kites**, **Limpkins**, **Roseate Spoonbills**, **Wood Storks**, **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks**, **Wattled Jacanas**, **Cocoi Herons**, **Ringed and Green Kingfishers**. However, our main reason for focusing on these western lowland wetlands was for the massive **Horned Screamer**, which we found in the end, before we took a delicious crab ceviche salad at a restaurant nearby. In the afternoon, we still had some miles to do to get up into the western Andean foothills but made another coastal stop at a bustling town called *Puerto Jeli*, where we admired **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** loafing on the shoreline, **Magnificent Frigatebirds** soaring above, **Great-tailed Grackles** perched on fishing boats, in addition to several **American Oystercatchers**, a **Rufous-necked Wood-Rail** taking a bath just inside the mangroves, and a party of pintail on a pond (**White-cheeked Pintail**). At the end of the day we checked into *Umbrellabird Lodge*, in the heart of *Buenaventura Reserve*, our first of 6 foundation reserves we visited on this tour. Our day’s birding only really came to an end during dinner, when we distracted from our plates by a **Black-and-white Owl** calling outside the restaurant, which we promptly tracked down and admired for some time to round out a very productive opening stanza!



The feeders at *Umbrellabird Lodge* in *Buenaventura* were bustling with **Green Honeycreepers** (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).



The usual horde of birds at the feeders at *Umbrellabird Lodge* included many hummingbirds, like this **Green Thorntail**. Other species at the feeders included *Violet-bellied Hummingbird*, *Andean Emerald*, *Brown Violetear*, *White-necked Jacobin*, *Bananaquit*, and *Red-masked Parakeet* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

Day 2: 9th January – [Buenaventura](#).

We started out early again, for a big reason, a very big reason; Long-wattled Umbrellabird. These beasts from the cotinga family display around dawn and then again, usually in the late afternoon. Its bizarre appearance makes it a huge target for visiting birders on this tour, and the species often sits high on the list of birds of the tour at the end of this trip. Therefore, we took no chances, and left in darkness, pre-breakfast, to visit the lek site in the forest, and arrive at dawn. This allowed us another bonus bird on the way down, when a **Mottled Owl** responded to *Sam's* overtures and perched in full view, to increase our owl list to three after less than two days birding! Just as we saw the owl, the deep cow-like moos of *Long-wattled Umbrellabirds* were heard drifting through the cloudforest air, from the direction of their traditional display area; we simply had to leave in pursuit. We were just a few minutes' walk from there, and so our nervousness/excitement was soon addressed. As we arrived at THE spot, the foghorn-like calls of the **Long-wattled Umbrellabird** continued, and it was clear there were 2-3 males present, but we could not see any of them! We scrambled up a steep muddy side trail, and quickly locked eyes on a male with his absurd wattle extended to its fullest, and its teddy boy like crest expanded to droop over its forehead. The males were excitable and flapped their wings enthusiastically in anticipation of a female coming by, creating loud clapping noises in doing so. We were utterly thrilled; it was a great way to greet our first dawn in the Andean cloudforest. Once the show had finished, we tried seeing some species on the way back to the vehicle for breakfast at the lodge, having mixed success with some skulking **Song Wrens**, a **Brownish Twistwing**, and a true master of evidence, **Esmeraldas Antbird** all of which were only seen by some.



Breakfast could have been a calm affair following our success, but a series of other avian objectives awaited, and the feeders visible from the breakfast take captivated us too and kept us on high alert! **Rufous-headed Chachalacas** appeared during our meal, adding another regional specialty of the Tumbesian Bioregion (shared with northern Peru), to our list.

After breakfast and our first survey of the hummingbird feeders, we back in the bus again, this time heading to a higher part of the reserve for another key local species. On the way there, we had not intended to stop but *Curtis* spotted another scarcity from the bus which meant we simply had to do so, he found an **Ochraceous Attila** perched on a fence, which we then proceeded to all see, once we had all scrambled out of the van in semi panic. Amazingly, *Curtis*, again, spotted the same pair in the same area some hours later when we returned, making us think they might be working on a nest in the area.

Once we arrived at the higher section of the reserve, we started scanning for birds around the parking lot, getting our first **Violet-tailed Sylphs** of the tour in doing so. This illustrated well the odd mix of birds available to us in *Buenaventura*, which holds an odd mix of birds of the *Choco Bioregion* largely to the north of there (e.g. the *sylyph* and the *umbrellabird*), and *Tumbesian* birds more typical of drier country in the *Tumbesian Bioregion* of southwest Ecuador and northern Peru (e.g. *Rufous-headed Chachalaca*, **Red-masked Parakeet**, photo left). In most places, these species would not overlap, but at *Buenaventura Reserve*, they do!

Finally, the pick-up trucks we had ordered collected us to take us up the road, where waves of most threatened our search for one of the rarest birds of the tour. We arrived at the old casa at the top of the road and set about waiting for any sign of parrots. **Bronze-winged Parrots** were seen, but it was not those that we were really after. Other birds we saw during this time included our only **Flame-faced Tanager** of the entire tour, and a male **Hooded Siskin**.

The group also noted that the *Verbena* flowers were attracting quite the crowd, including a stunning **Velvet-purple Coronet** (not common at this site), more **Violet-tailed Sylphs**, and the odd **Brown Inca**, all specialties of the *Choco Bioregion*. A **Yellow-bellied Siskin** also landed in fill view where it remained, helpfully, for some time.

Eventually, a female **Crowned (Emerald-bellied) Woodnymph** also made an appearance there too. We also spotted the ghostly white figure of a **Gray-backed Hawk** perched in the distance in one of the clearer spells between the waves of clouds obscuring our views over the forest. We were there for the opportunity to see the very local **El Oro Parakeet** (*photo below*), which is almost endemic to the reserve, numbering perhaps as few as a few thousand individuals. We already knew that we were best placed to look for it at dawn but has opted for the umbrellabird instead and took a gamble on the parakeet, knowing we had another morning available the following day, *if needed*. After an hour or more observing the hummingbirds come and go at the flowers we were getting fidgety. Initially, we could put this down to the low cloud that was preventing us from viewing large swathes of the treetops. However, even once the mist had cleared, we were still parakeet-less. Then, suddenly, nearing midday, the high screech of parakeets was heard, a call they usually give in flight and that often abruptly ends when they land. There were a few nervy moments following their silence and apparent landing, until they were spotted sitting near one of the nest boxes erected for them in the reserve, where they gave us prolonged views, which culminated in us observing them mating at length! Our gamble had paid off handsomely, and we returned to *Umbrellabird Lodge* in fine fettle, taking lunch a little late, but happy! As we headed out, a wonderful pair of **Black-chinned Mountain-Tanagers** were found perched in the treetops, where they remained for lengthy views of this locally scarce Choco species.



Mating **El Oro Parakeets** at Buenaventura (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

After lunch we spent some time looking at the feeders, where **White-necked Jacobins** and **Green Thorntails** (*photo page 7*) were the dominant hummingbird species, with lesser numbers of **Andean Emeralds** and **Violet-bellied Hummingbirds**. *Non-hummingbirds* in attendance included plentiful **Green Honeycreepers** (*photo page 6*) and **Bananaquits**. Meanwhile, the local pack of wild **South American Coatis** strolled around us, as if we were not there. Better still, we had good looks at a **Yellow-throated (Chestnut-mandibled) Toucan** that landed right beside the lodge, and the same went for a gorgeous **Blue-necked Tanager** too (*photo below*). Also, some very low flying **Swallow-tailed Kites** glided gracefully by. In the afternoon, we drove up the road through wonderful forest, making a specific stop where *Nick Athanas*, who was with another TROPICAL BIRDING tour there at the time, tipped us off about a pair of **Scaled Fruiteaters**, the male of which was waiting for us on arrival! The same area yielded out first **Rufous-throated Tanagers** too. Other afternoon highlights included a male **Collared Trogon** and a singing **Russet Antshrike**.



This **Blue-necked Tanager** landed by the feeders during lunchtime at *Umbrellabird Lodge* (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

Day 3: 10th January – **Buenaventura to Jorupe via El Empalme.**

One of the multifaceted appeals of this tour is the varied environments in which to bird in, and we all saw this first-hand on this day. We started out back along the same forested road at *Buenaventura*, in the Neotropical Cloudforest in the foothills of the western slope of the Andes. However, we left that area by mid-morning and worked our way south into the much drier Tumbesian Region, where deciduous scrub and woodland took over the landscape and led to a sudden change of birdlife for us. Our morning walk had some good additions for us, not least the uncommon and local Choco species **Club-winged Manakin**. A male was seen and heard giving its *You Tube* famous display.



White-throated Spadebill that raised its golden crest at us. After picking up our bags and boxed lunch, we set off south, but made a couple more, brief, stops along the road out of *Buenaventura*, finding a better **Brownish Twistwing**, and a singing male **Thick-billed Seed-Finch**.

After a solid drive south, we pulled over on a dry, dirt road to take our boxed lunch off of the highway, where we were frustrated by calling several *Watkins's Antpittas* on the wrong side of some local chainsaw action, but we did have a low flyover from a **Savanna Hawk**, a pair of **Streaked Saltators** and another **Peruvian Pygmy-Owl**, before we pushed on further south. Our next destination was more significant, the road to *La Celica* from *El Empalme*, where we did not take too long to located our main quarry, a striking regional speciality called **White-headed Brushfinch**. Our other targets were considerably trickier; we heard several **Tumbes Hummingbird** (*photo above*) before *Chris* and others finally located one for us all to see and photograph. We could not, however, find the hoped-for *Tumbes Sparrow* there. Plentiful **White-browed (Tropical) Gnatcatchers** featured too, due to their clear propensity to react to playback of a local *pygmy owl* call, making them extremely photogenic! The last hour was spent driving to *Jorupe Reserve*, our second lodge and reserve of the *Jocotoco Foundation* on the tour, where we settled into *Urraca Lodge* for a three-night stay.

The same area also got us our only **Ochre-breasted Tanagers** of the tour, while further up the road we had magnificent looks at a **Speckled (Spotted) Nightingale-Thrush**, just recently split from the Central American birds. In the same area we had a significant upgrade to our looks at **Song Wren** too, making this stop extremely worthwhile. Other significant finds that morning included **Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher**, **Guira Tanager** and a popular



Black-crested Tit-Tyrant featured early in our day in the southwest highlands, around the rural town of *Utuna* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

Day 4: 11th January – **Utuna, Jorupe & Sozoranga.**

On this day, we started out away from *Jorupe* itself, instead visiting a very different habitat, cloudforest within the southwest highlands of the Andes. This held a heady mix of specialties for us, and our first roadside stop quickly racked up a few of these, with, first, a treetop **Black-cowled Saltator**, which was followed by a few **Rufous-chested Tanagers**, pair of **Bay-crowned Brushfinches**, a vociferous **Three-banded Warbler**, and a male **Chapman's Antshrike** in the shrubby understory. A short drive from there we made another strategic pause, and quickly picked up the first of the species we were seeking, a wonderfully confiding **Black-crested Tit-Tyrant** (*photo above*). However, the hoped for **Jelski's Chat-Tyrant** did not come until a little later, once we had moved into the *Utuna Reserve* itself, where we were greeted with misty conditions, clouds and fog sweeping in and out regularly. A long walk on a forest trail brought us the chat-tyrant and also our first **Silvery Tanagers** but was generally quiet. By lunchtime, we had relocated to the reserve's hummingbird feeders, where we took our boxed lunch overlooking them, and enjoying regular visits from **Rainbow Starfrontlets** (*photo next page*) and **Purple-throated Sunangels** (*photo page 39*). After our time came to a close with the hummingbirds, we took another short walk into some nearby forest, where we got to view a **Gray-headed Antbird** several times as it crept around the bamboo underlayer. We then walked out of the reserve with little else seen on the return leg to the van.



This trip was excellent for *hummingbirds*, with around **60 different ones seen** (taxonomy dependent). This was arguably one of the finest of them all, **Rainbow Starfrontlet** from *Utuana* (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

In the afternoon, we changed tack entirely, this time visiting an area lower down, which comprised of dry deciduous forest within the outer parts of *Jorupe Reserve*. This was simply fantastic, with a steady stream of new birds as we delved into this habitat for the first time. Top star among them was a cooperative **Elegant Crescentchest** that emerged into the open on several occasions. We also got to see the notoriously reclusive **Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner** as it hopped into the open a number of times too. Other stylish new additions there included **Ecuadorian Piculet**, **Collared Antshrike**, and **Speckle-breasted Wren**. However, *Sue* found one of the best finds there, as she spotted a **Blackish-headed Spinetail** uncharacteristically sitting in the open of its own accord. We then moved to the town of *Sozoranga* for a final flurry of the day, pausing by the road when we spotted the bizarre looking male **Comb Duck** sitting on a rock in the *Rio Sabiango*, where a **Savanna Hawk** was also noted perched on an overhead cable too. Once in we reached the highland town of *Sozoranga* we located ourselves near the police station and waited. As evening approached, dozens of **Chestnut-collared Swallows** descended out of the sky and dropped into their mud nests on the station, prompting us to leave, with this mission accomplished. That night, after dinner, we decided to go out in search of owls again, as we had come back with nothing the evening before. This time things were different. We walked an easy forest trail and hung out by an opening where a **Peruvian Screech-Owl** (*photo page 14*) came in and sat beside us. Then, the deep barking sounds of the local pair of **Spectacled Owls** was heard too. At first, they seemed far away, but before we knew it they landed in a massive *Ceiba* tree beside the lodge, where we trained the spotting scope on them to end the day in considerable style!



Our time in Jorupe featured three different owls, this **Peruvian Screech-Owl** and a pair of *Spectacled Owls* on one night, and the rare *Buff-fronted Owl* on another extremely memorable night! (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

Day 5: 12th January – **Jorupe & Zapotillo.**

In contrast, to the day before on this one we started out right at the lodge itself, *Urraca Lodge* within *Jorupe Reserve*. After a 5:30am breakfast we were ready for the lodge feeders at 6am, where their signature bird soon announced it was coming in, **White-tailed Jay**, after which the lodge was named. The early bird chorus featured a **Red-billed Scythebill**, which was viewed from the veranda. Some **Whooping Motmots** (*photo page 16*) were stealing insects from around the light fixtures that had attracted them in the night, while **Ecuadorian Thrush** came into feed and a **Plumbeous-backed Thrush** visited the water trough. Down on the ground, striking **Guayaquil Squirrels** fed on corn kernels, as did some **Blue Ground-Doves** that dropped in a little later. Counterintuitively, the hummingbird feeders were lively with birds, just not hummingbirds, with **Yellow-tailed and White-edged Orioles** (*photos page 15*) alternating their visits there.

It was hard to drag ourselves away from the feeders, but we did so all the same, in order to drive down the road, where we soon found a male **Slaty Becard** (*photo page 16*) as we had hoped to do, a scarce and local species.

PHOTOS NEXT PAGE: **Yellow-tailed Oriole** (TOP) & **White-edged Oriole** both in *Jorupe* (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).





PHOTOS PREVIOUS PAGE: **Slaty Becard** (TOP) & **Whooping Motmot** both in *Jorupe* (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

The last part of the morning was spent walking up, then back down, the road near the lodge inside the reserve. This yielded some great sightings, including a calling **Bat Falcon** in flight, a super confiding **Watkins's Antpitta** (*photo below*) that hopped up right beside us, the cryptic **Gray-breasted Flycatcher**, a pair of popular, perched, **Saffron Siskins**, and some superb looks at a single calling **Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner**. Other highlights included another **Ecuadorian Piculet** or two, **Superciliated Wren**, **Scarlet-backed** and **Golden-olive Woodpeckers**, **Tropical (Tumbes) Pewee**, **Hepatic Tanager**, **Pacific Elaenia**, **Fulvous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant**, several **Black-capped Sparrows**, and a late appearance by a **Pale-browed Tinamou** once we had almost got back to the lodge for *Alex*, *Chris* and *Sam* before it quietly crept back into hiding.



This very confiding **Watkins's Antpitta** was seen in the dry deciduous woodland at *Jorupe Reserve* (*Sam Woods*).

Over lunch back at base, we saw birds like **Boat-billed Flycatcher** and **Amazilia Hummingbird** right around the lodge. In the afternoon half of the group decided to opt for the long trip to *Zapotillo* in far southwest Ecuador, just over the border from Peru. Before we arrived there we had noted **Croaking Ground-Doves** as they foraged along the potholed road, as well as several **West Peruvian Doves** doing the same. This part of the country is super dry, and dominated by dry scrub, which is where we located two other major target birds, a pair of **Tumbes Sparrows** that *Curtis* noticed, and, after some work, we finally all had long looks at the diminutive **Tumbes Tyrant**. *Sue* also spotted a **Snowy-throated Kingbird** too.

We broke up the 90-minute drive back to the lodge with a stop at *La Ceiba*, where we quickly located a **Baird's Flycatcher** (the only one of the tour), as well as more **Comb Ducks**. Meanwhile, *Phil and Mary* stayed back at the lodge and were rewarded with sightings of 5 different **Pale-browed Tinamou**, as well as a **Laughing Falcon**. After dinner, flushed with so much recent success, we decided to try for one of the hardest birds in the reserve, **Buff-fronted Owl** (*photo page 2*). We were shocked to quickly hear one call, but it took 110 minutes after that, of considerable work, for us to finally set eyes on it, perched in the understory by a side trail. It was a late, but thrilling, finish to the day, where the excitement of seeing and photographing this beautiful, seldom-seen owl was conspicuously palpable.



This male **Ecuadorian Trogon** was perched by the lodge in *Jorupe* (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

Day 6: 13th January – **Jorupe & Sozoranga to Vilcabamba.**

Our final morning rising from *Urraca Lodge* saw us stay local, trying to “mop up” some missing species. While at this stage, *Chris* (3 times), *Phil and Mary* (5 different birds), and *Sam* had seen **Pale-browed Tinamou**, the rest were still lacking this species (with it having become rather unpredictable at the feeders of late). So, we tried to correct that. By the end of the morning several more tinamous were seen, and *Sue* at least added it to her list too. It was an extremely active morning, with many species seen, albeit largely ones we had already seen: a **Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner** popped into view in front of *Sam and Sue* that gave great looks. The same feeding flock held several **Ecuadorian Piculets** too.

The usual **Whooping Motmots** were hanging around the lodge lights and feeding station, and a male **Ecuadorian Trogon** (*photo page before*) appeared right beside *Urraca Lodge* too. **Plumbeous-backed Thrush**, **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher**, **Tropical (Tumbes) Pewee**, **Boat-billed Flycatcher**, the western form of **Olivaceous Woodcreeper** were all encountered too, and another showy **Blackish-headed Spinetail** were all seen too. However, our best result of the morning came once we drove a little higher up the hill from the lodge, where a pair of hulking **Guayaquil Woodpeckers** were both much wanted and much appreciated. After that, it was time to leave, so we packed up and drove uphill to *El Tundo Reserve* near *Sozoranga*, where we met with another TROPICAL BIRDING group surveying the area and received a series of helpful and productive tips offs. This led us to a flowering tree that was being frequented by an obliging **White-vented (Ecuadorian) Plumeleteer**, an Ecuadorian form with potential to be split off as an endemic species. The same area held some **Silvery Tanagers**, **Bay-crowned Brushfinches**, multiple calling **Peruvian (Loja) Tyrannulets**. We also found some foraging **White-winged Brushfinches** nearby. We took lunch in the field beside a singing **Andean Slaty Thrush**, which showed to some of us eventually! A long drive saw us head east and north to the backpacker/hiking town of *Vilcabamba* for the night, making a very successful stop for **Plumbeous Rail** (*photo below*) on the journey there.



This bold **Plumbeous Rail** was seen on our northward journey to *Vilcabamba* for a single night stay, a scarce and local species in Ecuador, where it is the northern limit of its range (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

Day 7: 14th January – Cerro Toledo to Tapichalaca.

Having spent all of our time on the western slope until now, today we moved to the eastern side of the Andes for the remainder of the trip, starting up in the highlands at *Cerro Toledo*. Our first site there was an area of elfin forest and shrubby paramo edge, where we were seeking yet another hummingbird, the local *Neblina Metaltail*. *Loja Tapaculos* called here and there, but remained firmly out of view, as did several calling *Mouse-colored Thistletails* on a windy day up at the highest points. It was not the great start we were seeking. However, after being buffeted by the powerful winds for some time, a small hummingbird fluttered in beside us, turned, and revealed its ruby red throat: **Neblina Metaltail** (*photo below*)! Three other hummingbird species also joined the list at *Cerro Toledo*, **Rainbow-bearded Thornbill**, **Glowing Puffleg**, and **Great Sapphirewing**.



This **Neblina Metaltail** showed up along a very windy stretch of road in the highlands at Cerro Toledo (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

Other than that, our searches in temperate forest lower down produced little during some very quiet spells, and so by the afternoon we had moved off towards our next destination, and our next *Jocotoco Foundation* property, *Tapichalaca*, home of the fabled *Jocotoco Antpitta*. As we approached the lodge, seeing the border shared between *Podocarpus NP* and *Tapichalaca Reserve*, we noted the calm weather with no rain, which encouraged us to stay back from checking in, but instead walk a short part of a trail close to there. It seemed ghostly quiet there too for a while, but we did then locate a calling **Golden-plumed Parakeet** perched close to the trail. Then we tracked down a calling **Black-throated Tody-Tyrant**, making the walk very worthwhile.

However, the greatest ease to our time there was hitting a mixed flock on the way out, which held **Black-capped Hemispingus**, **Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager**, **Yellow-breasted Brushfinch**, **Citrine Warbler**, **Masked Flowerpiercer**, **Blue-backed Conebill**, **Gray-hooded Bush-Tanager**, **Capped Conebill**, and some marvelous **Hooded Mountain-Tanagers**. **Rufous-capped Thornbill** and **Smoke-colored Pewee** were also found in the same area. After the flock passed, finally giving us time to gasp for air, we drove to the lodge, *Casa Simpson*, and checked in there. The day closed with activity at the lodge, including **Chestnut-breasted Coronet**, **Amethyst-throated Sunangel**, **Collared Inca**, and **Fawn-breasted Brilliant** appearing at the feeders, and a **Bearded Guan** was perched beside the lodge too. With a non-rainy night in evidence, we made a concerted try for *White-throated Screech-Owl* near the lodge but heard and saw no nightbirds of any kind.



The **Jocotoco Antpitta** encourages many people to sign up for this tour, as it is the only reliable place in the world to see it. We managed to see a pair and a juvenile bird at the forest feeder in *Tapichalaca* (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

Day 8: 15th January – Tapichalaca & Palanda.

White-throated Quail-Doves were seen from a purpose-built blind in the wet temperate cloudforest at Tapichalaca (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

This tour ended up being one of the most memorable of the entire tour with more than 100 bird species recorded by combining a morning's birding in the wet cloudforests around Tapichalaca with an afternoon session birding the eastern foothills near the town of Palanda, south of there. We took a, by now regular, pre-dawn breakfast with specific bird strategies in mind. As the forest around the lodge began to light up with the first rays of dawn, we walked around 100 yards from the lodge to a forest trail, where, after a time, in came an **Equatorial (Rufous) Antpitta** to be fed on the trail. The bird departure was our cue to leave. From there we took a short drive to a famous trailhead, where we walked up to see one of the tour's most wanted birds, *Jocotoco Antpitta*. We had to reach the in-forest feeding station by 8am, so we did not have masses of time to bird on the way there but did have sufficient time to notch up our second *antpitta* of the morning before 7:30am, this time the diminutive **Slate-crowned Antpitta**. We arrived almost bang on time, and soon after the first of three different **Jocotoco Antpittas** (photo page 21) came into to feed at the station. This involved the bold adult male, according to the local ranger/antpitta feeder/bird guide, *Diego*, a juvenile, and the distinctly shyer female too. All were seen at extremely close quarters, and the juvenile lingered for some time. Tapichalaca is famously wet, and we were to experience this up close on this day, with heavy rain confining us to the shelter for some time. As we sheltered a few other birds popped into view, with a party of **Orange-banded Flycatchers** appearing one time, a **Bluish Flowerpiercer** on another few occasions and even a female **Barred Fruiteater** making a mid-rain appearance too. Nearby, a very showy pair of **Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrants** gave exceptional views too.

The rain seemed to be sapping the life out of our morning's birding plans, but this was forgotten when a **Chestnut-naped Antpitta** came in late to the feeding station several times and then more than justified our lengthy time there, once we added this, our fourth antpitta of the morning. Then, once the rain seemed to be easing a little we backtracked along the trail we walked in on and visited the **White-throated Quail-Dove** (*photo page 22*) blind, where a pair of these powerful pigeons were seen wolfing down corn kernels. With the rain now having eased to nearly nothing, we were now, a little belatedly, ready to walk a steep forest trail back to the lodge and slow speed searching for birds as we went. We enjoyed a magnificent late morning run on birds with flocks and key species peppering the remainder of the morning. Highlights included a pair of **Plushcap** foraging in the bamboo story with several **Black-capped Hemispingus**; a **Rufous Spinetail** that crept around very close to us all; a trio of **Mountain Wrens** foraging in some mossy trunks; while mixed flocks held **Pearled Treerunner**, **Bar-bellied Woodpecker**, and **Spectacled Redstart (Whitestart)** Other avian results from the morning trail walk included **Russet-crowned Warbler**, **Chusquea Tapaculo** (seen), and a male **Long-tailed Sylph** foraging in the forest. However, the late morning highlight actually occurred near noon, when we were walking down towards the lodge and a **Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan** was heard calling, and summoned into a close, moss-clad, tree, to acclaim all round!

By lunchtime, we had returned to the lodge and took lunch there, before admiring the hummingbirds at the feeders, which were dominated by **Chestnut-breasted Coronets**, with smaller numbers of **Amethyst-throated Sunangels**, **Fawn-breasted Brilliants** and **Collared Incas** among them, and the occasional visit from a **Little (Flame-throated) Sunangel** too. As captivating as the hummers were though, we could not help but get distracted by a feeding flock that came through the lodge garden and held some spritely **White-banded Tyrannulets**, tail-wagging **Gray-hooded Bush-Tanagers**, **Lacrimose Mountain-Tanagers**, **Rufous-breasted Bush-Tyrants**, **Blue-backed Conebills**, and a **Barred Becard** in its midst. A **Bearded Guan** was also loafing around the lodge, as was a **Yellow-breasted Brushfinch** that attended the seed feeder there too.

After lunch, we stripped some layers and headed down hill towards the town of *Palanda*. However, our first major sighting came close to a nearer town, where a male and juvenile **Torrent Duck** were seen in the rapids on the *Valladolid River*, and **Green-and-black Fruiteater** as seen just above there. Another roadside stop had us eyeballing a male **Lined Antshrike**, a relatively subdued **Olivaceous Greenlet**, **Silvery Tanager**, and a brief showing from a pair of calling **Purple-throated Euphonias**. Moving within site of the town of *Palanda* the new birds came thick and fast, with a swirling flock of **Chestnut-collared Swifts** overhead, **Black-faced and Blue Dacnis**, **Swallow and Paradise Tanagers**, **Piratic Flycatcher** and **Mottled-backed Elaenia** in the treetops, **Guira Tanager** a little lower than those species, a male **Red-headed Barbet**, a calling **Rufous-fronted Thornbird**, the arboreal **Ash-browed Spinetail**, and several of our major quarry, the scaly-breasted **Maranon Thrush**, here at the northern extremity of its limited range. *Nick*, with another TROPICAL BIRDING group that we teamed up with here, also lured in a **Green-backed (Yellow-cheeked) Becard** there too. Other highlights from our most southerly point of the day included the newly split **Blue-gray Saltator** (formerly lumped with the other forms of *Grayish Saltator* in Central America), **Slate-throated Redstarts** replaced the Spectacled ones we had seen upslope that morning, a single **Black-faced Tanager**, and a very close perched **White-eyed Parakeet** with scattered scarlet markings on its emerald green scalp. With the afternoon waning we loaded up and headed back towards Tapichalaca, although once again we stopped near *Valladolid*, where we had no trouble in finding the distinctive "Paynter's" **White-winged Brushfinch**, a potential future split. While it had been dry lower down, as is often the case, *Tapichalaca* was threatening to rain and ruin our final chances at *owling* there.



White-throated Screech-Owl slotted in as our SEVENTH OWL of the tour in the wet cloudforests at *Tapichalaca* (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

After dinner, the group slimmed considerably with light rain falling and a long day behind them. However, a few stalwarts remained. As the rain increased as we begun this, *Sam and Nick* teamed up and went up the trail while the group sheltered at the lodge. The plan was, if the guides heard it, then they would beckon the group to come out in the rain after all. This worked our perfectly, as *Sam* finally caught the sounds of a hooting pair of **White-throated Screech-Owls** (*photo above*), *Nick* collected the group and then proceeded to rapidly spotlight the bird when it came into to a moss laden branch above us, rain glistening on its feathers as it sat there following another recent shower, ending the day in style again!

Day 9: 16th January – Palanda & Tapichalaca to Cabanas Yankuam via Mi Paradise.

Our Southern Ecuador “road trip” continued with some further miles under our belt on this day, as we travelled out of the temperate cloudforest zone in *Tapichalaca* to the eastern foothills of the Andes, making a special stop near the town of *Yantzaza* on the way, before we retired for the night at *Cabanas Yankuam*, the most remote location of the tour; (in extreme Southeast Ecuador, close to the *Cordillera del Condor*). We started out our day trying, and failing, to find a recently seen *Chestnut-crested Cotinga* below *Tapichalaca*. This did not work out sadly, although **Green-and-black Fruiteater** and **Beryl-spangled Tanager** was seen in that area.

Further down, around *Palanda* we spotted our first **Speckled Chachalacas** of the tour, and also noted **Paradise and White-lined Tanagers**, **Squirrel Cuckoo**, nesting **White-eyed Parakeets**, further **Maranon Thrushes**, **Ash-browed Spinetail**, **Olivaceous Siskin** and **Olive-chested Flycatcher**, before we needed to return to *Tapichalaca* and check out of our accommodation in *Casa Simpson*.

We took a lunch with us, eating it at a small local restaurant on the way during a rainstorm in the foothills of the Andes. After some roadside **Cliff Flycatchers** and not much else, we finally arrived at *Mi Paradise*, a small private reserve and reforestation project near the town of *Yantzaza*. The other TROPICAL BIRDING group was one step ahead of us and were already on site with the owner *Christian*. This meant we arrived to grave news, the *Spangled Coquettes* of the sunny afternoon before, were absent on this rainy one! We lingered watching the purple flowers anyway and were soon adding three hummingbirds to our list in the form of several **Little Woodstars**, one or two **Blue-tailed Emeralds** and the odd **Glittering-throated Emerald**. Otherwise, while the rain pelted down, not much was happening. *Nick and Sam*, and their two respective groups were caught in a quandary, leave and risk missing a late showing from a *coquette*, or stay and delay our arrival at our lodge, still some two hours beyond. We lingered all the same, as the weather suddenly cleared and there was renewed hope from *Christian* that a *coquette* may show up as a result. A pair of calling **Bat Falcons** passed by our viewpoint. An uneasy silence fell over the two groups, when suddenly Jay broke this when he caught sight of a male **Spangled Coquette** (photo below) coming into the flowers right in front of us, where it hovered in full view of us all as it checked each flower diligently, one-by-one, in front of a very appreciative (and relieved) crowd!



Once the *coquette* left us, we left the reserve, getting back on the road to *Yankuam* as soon as we could. With us moving into a very different area, offering many, many new birds, it was only inevitable that we would end up stopping on the way, which we did! This involved stops for **Black Caracaras** flying along the road, a **Long-tailed Tyrant** standing sentry beside it, and then a marsh stop, where **Black-capped Donacobius**, **Black-billed Seed-Finch**, **Chestnut-eared Aracari**, and **Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch** all featured, as well as numerous **Black-billed Thrushes** on the overhead cables. We retired to bed in readiness for a chock-full day in the field with a diverse, heady mix of *eastern foothill species* and *Amazonian species* on offer the next day...



This **Spot-breasted Woodpecker** was located by Phil near the tiny town of *Nuevo Paraiso* at the end of the road (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

Day 10: 17th January – **Maycu and the road to Nuevo Paraiso.**

Just two days after one epic day came this day, another one. However, this day was perhaps more expected, as the location was one of the most diverse sites we visited on the entire tour. We spent the day within 2 hours' drive of the lodge, cruising up and down the road to *Nuevo Paraiso*, within and outside of the *Maycu Reserve*, tracking down more than 100 species on this landmark day for the tour. Our first priority was to spend time birding the road through *Maycu Reserve*, the last resting place for the rare **Orange-throated Tanager** in Ecuador, and the only accessible site for it anywhere in the world. The other TROPICAL BIRDING group were in residence there too, and soon *Nick* had located the call of the tanager coming from the treetops, but for a frustratingly long time, we simply could not see it. However, after leaving it be, and finding other birds, the bird began calling again, and then this time the bird emerged for everyone to see, and then was spotted moving with a huge flock in the area several times after that.

Indeed, it was an excellent day for tanagers in general with more than **20 tanager species seen** through the day, including **Green-and-gold, Paradise, Turquoise, Yellow-bellied, and Flame-crested Tanagers, Fulvous Shrike-Tanager, and Black-faced and Yellow-bellied Dacnises** all seen. However, before the tanagers took over a wonderful **Golden-collared Toucanet** was discovered croaking by the road and was one of *three toucan species seen by us that day*. Other “early birds” included **Wing-barred Piprites** and our first **Black-eared Fairy**. The area for the **Orange-throated Tanager** held a handsome flock (as normal) that contained not only that species, but also **Lafresnaye’s Piculet, Ocellated Woodcreeper, Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner, Ecuadorian Tyrannulet, Canada Warbler**, and a wonderful pair of the scarce **Speckled Spinetails**. *Sue* also found a **Fiery-throated Fruiteater** that snuck away before anyone, but *Curtis* could see it. A close **Foothill Stipplethroat (Antwren)** also had us swirling around, away from the flock to peer nearer ground level. At that point, the two birding groups separated once more, but after seeing a **Plain-winged Antshrike**, it became clear that *Sam* had left his speaker by the first spot, and so we returned, which ended up being fortuitous, when the other group pointed out a **Lanceolated Monklet** sitting quietly in a vine tangle, and we stumbled upon our first **Purplish Jacamar** of the day. We also added a **Slate-colored Grosbeak** up in the canopy. Moving along the road, we located some boisterous **Thrush-like Wrens**, found the teeny, tiny **White-bellied Pygmy-Tyrant** one of the world’s smallest songbirds, and got crips looks at a pair of **Peruvian Warbling-Antbird**. We took our boxed lunch in an area where *Blackish Pewee* could have featured but did not!

After lunch, we continued down the road to *Nuevo Paraiso*, where we were lower still and hit with the full ferocity of Amazonian heat! One stop was celebrated as we found our first **Yellow-tufted Woodpecker** clamped to a tree that held a pair of nest-building **Golden-bellied (White-lored) Euphonias**. The same general area also brought us another open country, edge species, in the form of a **Little Woodpecker**, and **Chestnut-bellied Seedeaters** started to be found along the road. Near the end of the road, we concentrated along the banks of the *Rio Numpatakalme*, where we soon located some **Hoatzins**, a much requested for species. While we watched our first **Hoatzins**, a **Lemon-throated Barbet** landed in the tree beside us. In the same area *Jay* spotted several **Greater Yellow-headed Vultures** gliding on broad wings overhead, and we tracked down a calling **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** that ended up being mobbed by a marvelous male **Yellow-bellied Dacnis**. The only **Cobalt-winged Parakeets** of the tour flew over us there, as did some **Blue-headed Parrots** too. Just as we were fixing to leave the area *Phil* noted a **Spot-breasted Woodpecker** (*photo page 26*) flying in, which landed right beside us.

On the way back out, returning along the same road, we found a flock of **Black-and-white Seedeaters**, and then paused in *Peru*, as the road cuts into that neighbouring country for a short while. Our pause was intended to add some birds to people’s *Peru* bird list, and we got a couple of good ones in doing so, with one tree holding a pair of **Lettered Aracaris**, and another a pair of **Blue-gray Saltators**, both sitting inside the Peruvian border. In the late afternoon, we located a wonderfully cooperative **Striped (Eastern) Woodhaunter**, and then, finally, located a **Blackish Pewee**, which was scoped from several angles, as it called every so often. By rights, that should have been the end of a thrilling day’s birding, but *Nick* and his group went out before we had finished our nightly birding roll call (checklist), and quickly returned to alert us of the presence of a **Band-bellied Owl** close to the lodge. We quit our list and hurried out there, when the obliged by perching on an open branch and allowed long, languid ‘scope looks so that we could retire to bed happy, after seeing our NINTH owl species of the trip!

Day 11: 18th January – [Maycu to Copalinga Lodge](#).

Our time in the eastern foothills of the Andes continued with a further visit to the *Maycu* area, before we returned to *Yankuam* before lunch, then departed for another destination, *Copalinga Lodge*, another *Jocotoco Foundation* reserve and lodge. We started out closer to the lodge than the previous day, which helped us to locate another scarcity, a chestnut-throated female, **Zimmer’s (Northern Chestnut-tailed) Antbird**. Lingering in that area for some time, we later located a wonderful, pied, male **Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher** almost in the very same spot. In between, we unsuccessfully chased calling *Thrush-like Antpitta* and *Amazonian Trogon*, but then won big when a pair of **Amazonian Umbrellabirds** were located, including one which landed right overhead.

Several **Channel-billed Toucans**, which had been calling, also passed over us. Another **Black-eared Fairy** remained on a perch in full view again for some time too. Overhead, a mixed flock of swifts held **Gray-rumped and Short-tailed Swifts**. Moving back into the heart of *Maycu*, another birding group put us onto a lovely **White-throated Woodpecker**, and then, further along the road, some last minute birding brought us a fine male **Crimson-crested Woodpecker**, a single **Black-crowned Tityra** and a calling **White-necked Puffbird** sharing a tree with several **Purplish Jacamar**. A series of *tanagers* also turned up again that morning, including **Fulvous Shrike, Yellow-bellied, Paradise, Green-and-gold, Bay-headed, and Guira Tanagers**. and Our time in the *Maycu* area closed with a pair of **Gilded Barbets** by the roadside just before lunch at *Cabanas Yankuam*. After packing up we departed for *Copalinga Lodge*, stopping for bits and bobs along the way, like a **Laughing Falcon** (*photo below*) surveying the land from the top of a dead palm in the rain, and a cable being utilised by three species of swallow: **White-banded, White-thighed and Southern Rough-winged Swallows**. **Violaceous Jays** and **Magpie Tanagers** also featured during this return journey too.



This **Laughing Falcon** seemed oblivious to both us, and the rain, on our journey from *Yankuam* to *Copalinga Lodge* (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

After arriving at *Copalinga Lodge* at around 4:30pm, we were quickly distracted by the action in the garden but remained focus and left up the trail to visit a forest blind where in the mid to late afternoon *Gray Tinamou* can make an appearance. The other TROPICAL BIRDING group was ahead of us, and so as we approached the blind they beckoned us in, as the **Gray Tinamou** was slowly walking away from the blind along the trail!

Luckily, it paused and remained there for all to get in position and have a good view of this notoriously difficult to see bird away from this location. A **Gray-fronted Dove** and an **Orange-billed Sparrow** were also using the same trail. The final part of the was spent taking in the action around the lodge itself, where hummingbirds like **Violet-fronted Brilliant** (*photo below*), **Pale-tailed Barbthroat**, **Golden-tailed Sapphire**, **Fork-tailed Woodnymph**, and **Many-spotted Hummingbird** came in and out of the feeders, while the *Verbena* flowers to the side of these, held **Violet-headed Hummingbirds**. At 6:45pm, we left for one last bird, arriving at a specific roadside spot near the lodge at dusk, where we had several views of a **Blackish Nightjar** sallying in the rain, on the short return drive we also saw a couple of **Common Pauragues** sitting on the road too. The final highlight of this day was mammalian, when a furtive **Lowland Paca** stopped in at the lodge feeders after dinner.



Violet-fronted Brilliant was the most conspicuous hummingbird species at the Copalinga Lodge feeders during our visit (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

Day 12: 19th January – Rio Bombuscaro (Podocarpus NP) & Copalinga Lodge.

On this day, we remained in the eastern foothills, spending the morning wandering a beautiful trail through verdant forest flanking the *Rio Bombuscaro*, in *Parque Nacional Podocarpus*. The walk into the park headquarters was eventful early on, when the harsh calls of a lek of **Andean Cock-of-the-rocks** was heard, and we managed to see several males pursuing a female in the area. From there, as we walked on, we heard one of the rarest birds we were looking for on this tour, *White-necked Parakeet*, which had us hurrying our pace along the trail.

Our local guide had informed us that a small group of these endangered parakeets was regularly visiting a small mineral lick along the trail, although the exact timing of this each morning was unclear. We feared the birds we had heard, and briefly glimpsed in flight, were heading straight for the lick, and so we hastened to that area too. There was no sight nor sound of the parakeets we pursued, but we waited there, hoping that another group might arrive. As we waited we noted **Common Scale-backed Antbird** calling, and Curtis got some good looks at the male, and a **Plain-backed Antpitta** came into our call and hopped across a gap in the forest but was seen by only a few. Then, all Hell broke loose when the calls of some **White-necked (breasted) Parakeets** (*photo below*) were heard, and a small group were located in some trees sitting near the lick. We waited, impatiently, and finally, they dropped into some nearer trees, and then visited the bank to consume minerals there, where they showed at extremely close range to us, and provided a major tour highlight...



A party of 7 **White-necked Parakeets** were seen on a bank in *Rio Bombuscaro*, where we got incredible, close looks at this near endemic species, which barely reaches into extreme Northern Peru outside of Southern Ecuador, numbers only a few thousand birds, and is known from only a handful of sites. (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

The remainder of the morning within the park was also very productive. Many got good looks at a male **Blue-fronted Lancebill**. A little further along the trail we crossed the river, and *Sue* picked up one of our target species, the riparian **Olive Finch** while there, where a pair responded atypically by rising up into a tall mossy tree, where they gave prolonged views in sight of the river. The same river also hosted a foraging **Buff-tailed Sicklebill**, which fluttered into view several times.

Soon after, we emerged into the forest clearing by the park headquarters, where we lingered for some time. A large flock is known to dwell in this area, and so waited for it to come by. Signs of this were soon evident, when some **Yellow-throated Chlorospingus** came by, and then the scarce **Fulvous-breasted Flatbill** provided further evidence that this was the flock we were looking for. Soon after, we heard and lured in our main quarry from within the mixed flock, a cryptic flycatcher called **Foothill Elaenia**, which was discovered at this very same spot in the late 20th Century. This flock came though several times, giving us looks at different individuals in the group as it did so. Following several pass bys, we managed to pick out **Blue-necked, Golden, Green-and-gold, Orange-eared, Yellow-bellied, Spotted and Paradise Tanagers** within the flock, along with **Montane Foliage-gleaner, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Ash-browed Spinetail, Blackburnian and Canada Warblers**, and **Ashy-throated Chlorospingus** were all accompanying this heady variety of tanagers. We also got a typically feisty and fidgety group of **Lemon-browed Flycatchers** that were also associating with the party. However, the standout bird within the clearing was a considerably larger one, **Amazonian Umbrellabird** (*photo below*). We were fortunate to see a male with crest spread and wattle inflated and giving it deep horn-like calls during the middle of the day. Further proof of it being a male bird was provided by the distinctive white feather plumes that were revealed at the front of its crest, which are absent in females. A **Lineated Woodpecker** was also added to the bird list in the same area.



We were fortunate with *umbrellabirds* on this tour, with 2 male **Long-wattled Umbrellabirds** encountered in *Buenaventura*, and then **Amazonian Umbrellabirds** were seen in both *Maycu* and *Rio Bombuscaro*, where this male gave us the best views of all (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

We returned to *Copalinga Lodge* for lunch, overlooking the feeders there, which was where we concentrated our birding during the middle of the day. Handsome **Red-crested Finches** came and went, as did an acrobatic **Sickle-winged Guan**, and a raiding troop of **White-fronted Capuchins** (*photo page 4*) that took most of the bananas away that were meant for the local birds! Meanwhile, the hummingbird feeders offered a continued source of action, with **Violet-fronted Brilliant**, **Golden-tailed Sapphire**, **Fork-tailed Woodnymph**, **Glittering-throated Emerald**, and **Pale-tailed Barbthroat** all visiting these, and **Violet-headed Hummingbird**, **Sparkling Violetear**, and a single **Wire-crested Thorntail** paying visits to the lilac *Verbena* flowers in the garden during a 15-hummingbird day. A **White-breasted Wood-Wren** gave some good looks on the garden too. Some of the group returned to the park in the afternoon, where things were considerably quieter than in the morning, but we did find a pair of **Lanceolated Monklets** (*photo below*), noted several more **Ornate Flycatchers**, and observed the male **Amazonian Umbrellabird** again, and best of all got our one and only male **Striolated Manakin** of the tour then.



A pair of **Lanceolated Monklets** were found sitting quietly beside the picturesque forest trail we walked in the *Rio Bombuscaro* sector of *Podocarpus National Park* (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

PHOTO NEXT PAGE: This **Koepcke's Screech-Owl** in the city of *Loja* was our *tenth* owl seen on the tour! (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

Day 13: 20th January – Copalinga Lodge & the Old Loja-Zamora Road to Loja and Saraguro.

Although this was one of the quieter days of the tour, it still held some cracking birds and a landmark moment for the tour, as we landed our tenth owl species of the tour with a short diversion in the afternoon. We started out birding the grounds of *Copalinga Lodge*. While some admired and took photos at their gripping feeders, the rest of the group walked a forest trail, where we'd been hoping to find a *Coppery-chested Jacamar*. We heard the bird no problem but could simply never catch sight of it during a frustrating spell there. However, some compensation was received in the form of the only **Rufous Motmot** of the tour, a couple of **White-necked Thrushes** foraging along the trail, and out only views of a **Green (Inca) Jay**. In the lodge garden, a male **Red-crested Finch** was also seen again, while **Russet-backed Oropendola** also visited the feeders. As we stood in the parking lot looking at flocks of swifts overhead, we were stunned when a burst of orange appeared overhead too, as a male **Andean Cock-of-the-rock** blasted over the car park! It was then time to move on and try birding somewhere else, and somewhere new, this time the nearby *Old Loja-Zamora Road*. A pair of **Blackish Antbirds** were seen along a new section of road there, and we also had some great looks at some perched **Scaly-naped Parrots**, while several small groups of **White-necked Parakeets** passed overhead. A **(Northern) White-crowned Tapaculo** was taped into a forest thicket where most got views of it, and a **Masked Tityra** was distinctly clearer perched in the treetops. However, our main quarry there proved very tricky, and we did not have a typical experience with a calling **Coppery-chested Jacamar** there. We heard it frequently but could seem to get close to it. Then, finally, it came into to us, but remained low down and out of view until the 11th hour, when it appeared on a roadside branch and gave nice open looks after much time trying to find it beforehand. This brought much relief all round. *Sue* also located a singing **Pale-eyed Thrush** in the same area and a **Chestnut-tipped Toucanet**, before we left for the city of *Loja*, seeing **Magpie Tanager** and **Cliff Flycatcher** on our way out of there.



The other TROPICAL BIRDING group in the region at the time had been a little ahead of us, so we knew by the time we reached Loja in the afternoon that the hoped for **Koepcke's Screech-Owl** (*photo page 33*) had indeed returned to its daytime roost in a palm tree and was waiting for us on arrival, bring our owl tally to TEN species, SEEN for the tour! Jay and Sam climbed a precarious looking piece of scaffolding too, in order to get close ups of it from the rooftop of the local landowner who has been monitoring this rare owl, which is only known from Peru and this city in Southern Ecuador. We also saw an **Amazilia Hummingbird** in the neighbourhood, of the local form sometimes referred to as "**Loja Hummingbird**". Our final stop was close to the city of *Saraguro*, a highland town where we spent the next two nights. We visited a local community reserve, *Huashapamba*, where we spent the late afternoon surveying the trees for *parrots*. Unfortunately, no parrots were seen but our visit became justified when we clapped eyes on a stunning **Crimson-mantled Woodpecker**, on what had been a very productive tour for this bird family.

Day 14: 21st January – **Cerro Acanama & Huashapamba (Saraguro).**

After a breakfast at the hotel around dawn, we departed for a nearby mountain, *Cerro Acanama*, which has temperate forest at its base, and elfin forest, choked with bamboo, higher up. As we ascended in the bus, we got out of the vehicle several times, as we noticed some mixed feeding flocks by the roadside. These brought us some stellar new birds. The flocks held a few **Black-headed Hemispingus** (*photo below*), **Superciliated Hemispingus**, **Citrine Warbler**, **White-banded Tyrannulet**, a beautiful **Golden-crowned Tanager** or two, along with **Yellow-breasted Brushfinch**, **Pearled Treerunner**, **Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager**, and some marvelous **Rufous-chested Tanagers** too. One such flock also held several **Blue-and-black Tanagers** and a very popular pair of **Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers**, a much requested bird among the group.



PHOTO PREVIOUS PAGE: A wonderful mixed flock on *Cerro Acanama* held several **Black-headed Hemispingus** and a pair of **Golden-crowned Tanagers** (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

Several **Tyrian Metaltails** along the road were also additions to our already burgeoning hummingbird list, on this, one of the best tours in the world for racking up a BIG hummingbird list. A **Bearded Guan** was also spotted from the bus by the group, and higher up, in the stunted forest, we spent a bit of time trying to find *Crescent-faced Antpitta*, but none were heard or seen. However, we did score big with a calling **Ocellated Tapaculo**. Once we worked our way into the bamboo stand from which it was calling loudly, we got repeated views of this polka-dotted, giant tapaculo as it moved around the bamboo beside us, always an incredible bird to see! Other highlights “up top”, included a **Black-crested Warbler** at close quarters, our first **Grass (Sedge) Wren**, (just recently split from *Sedge Wren*), a pair of very confiding **Crowned Chat-Tyrants** in a bamboo stand, and **Mouse-colored Thistletail** in the open shrubbery there. We returned to our town hotel in *Saraguro* for lunch, during which we spotted our first **Chiguanco Thrush** from the restaurant. Then, in the late afternoon we returned to the beautiful temperate cloudforest at *Huashapamba*. While enjoying being at this wonderful setting in good weather made it an idyllic site, anyway, adding some nice birds did not do any harm either! After some work, we tracked down one of the constantly calling **Turquoise Jays**, and also found a small flock of calling *caciques* in the forest, here of a highland species, (**Northern**) **Mountain Cacique**. Some low flying **White-collared Swifts** swooped low over a forest clearing, and a **Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle** cruised beside a distant hillside, just before some *Red-faced Parrots*, our main avian objective there, started calling. We surveyed the trees and were then summoned to another clearing by *Nick* and his group who had been stationed there and had a trip of **Red-faced Parrots** in view as they foraged silently in the treetops, allowing wonderful views and great close to our time at this site. We finished the day with some birding beside our hotel in *Saraguro*, where we found **Golden Grosbeak** and a new bird for us, **Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant**.



This **Viridian Metaltail** was foraging in a scenic area of shrubby paramo in the Andean highlands at *Cerro de Arcos* (Sam Woods).

Day 15: 22nd January – Cerro de Arcos to Santa Isabel.

The earliest start of the tour saw us leave *Saraguro* at 4:30am. However, this extreme departure was justified for what was at stake, the chance to see one of the rarest birds in the world, a spectacular hummingbird that was only discovered in 2017 (*Blue-throated Hillstar*). The drive took around three hours which took us higher into moorland grassland, or *paramo*. Here, we were met with *Martino*, an employee of the local mountain refuge that provided us with a 4 x 4 pick up to take us the final leg of the journey to the hummingbird site (a 3 kilometre ride), and later provided us with a delicious hot lunch at *Cerro de Arcos*. Two journeys were needed to ferry the groups up that day, and so we first birded beside our vehicle, and quickly picked up a **Paramo Pipit**, and our first of a number of **Plumbeous Sierra-Finches** (*photo below*).



Plumbeous Sierra-Finch was seen during our day in the paramo at *Cerro de Arcos*, at a lofty 3625m/11,895ft (*Sam Woods*).

Next up was the main event, and we were dropped by a sign displaying the *hillstar*, and bearing the logo of the *Jocotoco Foundation*, which had recently acquired the land, which had been under threat from overgrazing, which threaten the food plants of this rare hummingbird.

We then needed to walk into the paramo to a shrubby area of paramo, where *Chuquiragua flowers* (photo page 38) litter the landscape. This “Flower of the Andes” is a critical food plant of the *Blue-throated Hillstar*, which is only known from this one site in the world. Before we saw that though, we added another spectacular hummingbird, in the form of a male **Black-tailed Trainbearer** and admired a **Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant** perched on one of the local *puya* plants. Then, in swooped a white-bellied hummingbird that landed beside us, none other than the stunning **Blue-throated Hillstar** (photo page 38)! Over the next several hours this male was seen on several other occasions as it foraged in the flowers or perched beside them. This was a good day for hummingbirds, bringing us five new species in total, and pushing our hummingbird list to 60 species in the process. From the “*Hillstar Knoll*” we also saw the burnt-orange **Shining Sunbeam** and glistening-green **Viridian Metaltail** (photo page 35). Our stationary position in this open habitat allowed us to see a good variety of paramo birds. This included a very confiding **Grass (Sedge) Wren** (photo below) that sang close by, several **Mountain Caracaras** that cruised over the valley, a **Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant** perched in the thicker areas of shrubs, and a **Many-striped Canastero** that perched up in the paramo on several occasions. A **Chestnut-winged Cinclodes** was also regularly observed as it took insects to its nest in a local rock pile. As we stood on the knoll, we regularly heard the distinctive chords of the song of a **Tawny Antpitta**, which *Nick* eventually lured into an open space for all to see. We kept watch on the skies overhead, where first a Variable Hawk appeared, and then, memorably, we got looks at a low flying adult **Andean Condor**, Ecuador’s national bird, and one of the largest flying birds on Earth. After that, we walked to the mountain refuge, putting up an impressive **Jameson’s (Andean) Snipe** as we did so, which cruised slowly past the group at close range.



Grass (Sedge) Wren was only recently split from *Sedge Wren* of the north, which sound very different from each other.

This bird was photographed in the paramo at *Cerro de Arcos* (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).



PHOTOS PREVIOUS PAGE: **Blue-throated Hillstar** was only discovered in 2017 and subsequently described in 2018 from *Cerro de Arcos* and remains one of the rarest hummingbirds on Earth. *Chuquiragua jussieui* is the main food plant of this hummingbird (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).



We took lunch at the refugio, where the feeders attracted **Shining Sunbeams**, **Viridian Metaltails**, and **Great Sapphirewings**. After lunch, we returned to the vehicle, picking up a **Streak-backed Canastero** beside there before we left, providing us with our final addition before we departed *Cerro de Arcos*. From there, it was a three hour drive to our planned destination, through dramatic country, a winding mountain road cutting through swathes of steep Andean scenery that had everyone raving about it. We made one final birding stop of the tour lower down, within the semi-arid, dry Interandean Valley, where cacti and succulent *Agaves* replaced the puyas and other highlands plants of wetter habitats higher up. The landscape had changed radically from that higher up, and so did the birds. Only a short time out of the vehicle was required to add our 11th and final owl of the tour, a pair of **Burrowing Owls** surveying the arid landscape from an earthy bank. Not long after, we found the first of several **Band-tailed Sierra-Finches**. *Andean Tinamous* were heard calling from the hills, but could not be located, but we did add a 60th hummingbird in the form of two female-type **Purple-collared Woodstars**. Several **Vermilion Flycatchers** glowed within this largely colorless landscape, and with a bit more work we added a distant **Drab Seedeater** after locating it in the scope. Better still, was good looks at several **Short-tailed Field-Tyrants**, an odd, stunted-tailed, terrestrial *flycatcher*, which was our final addition of the tour.

It had been a day more than worthy of providing a fitting finale for the tour, with spectacular hummingbirds, dramatic landscapes and the characteristic diversity of habitats that typified this classic circuit of Southern Ecuador, one of the world's most diverse bird regions.

Photo above: **Purple-throated Sunangel** a specialty of the Southwest Highlands, seen in *Ututana* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

CHECKLISTS:**BIRDS**

The taxonomy of the bird list follows **Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W.** *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World*. Cornell, 2007. *This list is up to date with changes published by Cornell in August 2021.*

(H) - INDICATES A SPECIES THAT WAS HEARD ONLY.

(GO) – INDICATES A SPECIES RECORDED BY THE GUIDE ONLY.

This tour covered a variety of regional centers of endemism in Ecuador, like the *Choco, Tumbesian, Southwestern Highlands, Interandean Slopes and Valleys, East Slope of the Andes, Isolated East-Andean Ridges*, and touched on the *Maranon* too.

Specialist species and forms of these are highlighted in **RED**, which emphasizes the number of regional specialties recorded on this tour.

TINAMOUS: TINAMIDAE

Gray Tinamou *Tinamus tao*: 1 was seen at a feeding station at Copalinga Lodge in the foothills of the east.

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* (H): Heard in the western lowlands and eastern foothills.

Pale-browed Tinamou *Crypturellus transfasciatus*: Seen on several occasions in Jorupe, where they did NOT come into the feeders whilst we were present. Phil and Mary who stayed back one afternoon, had 5 that day!

Andean Tinamou *Nothoprocta pentlandii* (H): 3 were heard in dry country between Cerro de Arcos and Santa Isabel.

SCREAMERS: ANHIMIDAE

Horned Screamer *Anhima cornuta*: 4 of these hulking waterbirds were seen at La Lagartera.

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: ANATIDAE

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*: Abundant in the many wet areas just to the south of Guayaquil.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*: 100s were seen at La Lagartera.

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*: A fabulous male was seen along the Rio Sabiango: others were seen at La Ceiba..

Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata*: A male and juvenile were seen in Valladolid.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*: A few were seen near Puerto Jeli.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*: Seen at Puerto Jeli.

GUANS, CHACHALACAS, CURASSOWS: CRACIDAE

Rufous-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis erythroptera*: Seen well round Buenaventura and Jorupe.

Speckled Chachalaca *Ortalis guttata*: Seen on around 4-5 occasions in forest in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Bearded Guan *Penelope barbata*: A small group were in the temperate cloudforest around Casa Simpson, Tapichalaca.

Wattled Guan *Aburria aburri*: 1 flapped across the Old Loja-Zamora Road in the eastern foothills.

Sickle-winged Guan *Chamaepetes goudotii*: 1 came into the feeder several times at Copalinga Lodge.

GREBES: PODICIPEDIDAE

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus Podiceps*: A few were seen in wetlands south of Guayaquil on day one of birding.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*: Commonly featured in urban areas throughout.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*: Just a couple were seen.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa*: At least one flew overhead in Maycu within the eastern foothills.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*: Recorded regularly in the highlands.

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea* (H): Heard several times during our time in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea* (H)

Ecuadorian Ground Dove *Columbina buckleyi*: A few were seen on the first day around Manglares Churute.

Croaking Ground Dove *Columbina cruziana*: Dozens were seen on the journey between Macara and Zapotillo.

Blue Ground Dove *Claravis pretiosa*: A large group came into the feeders at in the dry deciduous forest at Jorupe.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*: About half a dozen records, including in Jorupe.

Gray-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla*: 1 was seen on the tinamou trail at Copalinga Lodge.

White-throated Quail-Dove *Zentrygon frenata*: 2 visited the feeders at Tapichalaca.

West Peruvian Dove *Zenaida meloda*: A dozen or so around Zapotillo.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*: Commonly encountered in the highlands (e.g. Saraguro town).

CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*: Regularly recorded, particularly during the eastern foothills section of the tour.

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*: Regularly recorded in the dry southwest (e.g. around Jorupe).

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* (H): Heard calling in Jorupe and near Sozoranga.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*: Recorded on about 7 days of the trip.

NIGHTJARS: CAPRIMULGIDAE

Blackish Nightjar *Nyctipolus nigrescens*: 1 was seen sallying for insects in the dusk time rain, near Copalinga Lodge.

Band-winged Nightjar *Systellura longirostris* (GO): 1 was inadvertently flushed by Sam in Cerro Acanama.

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*: Heard at a handful of sites but only seen sitting on the road at Copalinga Lodge.

SWIFTS: APODIDAE

White-chinned Swift *Cypseloides cryptus*: 1 was identified on call in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila*: Several large, low flying, flocks seen, (e.g. Palanda, Copalinga Lodge).

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*: Noted on 6 days of the tour.

Short-tailed (Tumbes) Swift *Chaetura brachyura ocybetes*: Jay and others noted a few at Jorupe in the southwest.

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura brachyura*: A few were seen in the eastern foothills at Maycu.

Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*: A handful was seen around Maycu in the eastern foothills.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis*: 1 was seen by some in the higher part of Buenaventura Reserve.

HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga Mellivora*: The most conspicuous hummingbird at the Umbrellabird Lodge feeders.

Buff-tailed Sicklebill *Eutoxeres condamini*: 1 was seen inside the park at Rio Bombuscaro.

Pale-tailed Barbthroat *Threnetes leucurus*: A single regularly attended the feeders at Copalinga Lodge.

White-whiskered Hermit *Phaethornis yaruqui*: A few birds were seen zipping by at high speed in Buenaventura.

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*: 1 was at the feeders at Copalinga Lodge, and another was seen in Rio Bombuscaro.

Long-billed (Baron's) Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris baroni*: Good, lengthy 'scope looks were had at Maglares Churute.

Great-billed Hermit *Phaethornis malaris*: 1 was seen in Maycu.

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*: 1 was seen by some in Buenaventura.

Gray-chinned Hermit *Phaethornis griseogularis*: 1 came to the feeders at Copalinga Lodge.

Blue-fronted Lancebill *Doryfera johannae*: 1 male was seen at Rio Bombuscaro.

Geoffroy's Daggerbill (Wedge-billed H.) *Schistes geoffroyi*: Sam & Sue saw 1 feeding on flowers at Bombuscaro.

Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans*: A few were seen around Copalinga Lodge.

Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae*: A few at the feeders at Umbrellabird Lodge in Buenaventura.

Black-eared Fairy *Heliathryx auratus*: 2 were seen perched at length in Maycu Reserve, in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Amethyst-throated Sunangel *Heliangelus amethysticollis*: A regular at the feeders at Casa Simpson in Tapichalaca.

Little (Flame-throated) Sunangel *Heliangelus micraster*: 1 came to the Tapichalaca feeders, and another near Saraguro.

Purple-throated Sunangel *Heliangelus viola*: A few feeder birds in the cloudforest at Utuana in the southwest highlands.

Wire-crested Thorntail *Discosura popelairii*: A female visited the Verbena flowers at Copalinga too.

Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii*: One of the most abundant hummers at the feeders at Umbrellabird Lodge.

Spangled Coquette *Lophornis stictolophus*: 1 super male came in at the 11th hour at Mi Paradise.

Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys*: A few came to the feeders at Utuana Reserve in the Southwest Highlands.

Long-tailed Sylph *Aglaiocercus kingii*: A male and a female were seen inside the forest at Tapichalaca.

Violet-tailed Sylph *Aglaiocercus coelestis*: A few were seen in the upper part of Buenaventura Reserve.

- Blue-throated Hillstar** *Oreotrochilus cyanolaemus*: A spectacular male was seen at Cerro de Arcos on several occasions.
- Black-tailed Trainbearer** *Lesbia victoriae*: A striking male was seen in the paramo at Cerro de Arcos.
- Rufous-capped Thornbill** *Chalcostigma ruficeps*: 1 was seen in the forest at Tapichalaca.
- Rainbow-bearded Thornbill** *Chalcostigma herrani*: 1 male was seen, if only briefly, at Cerro Toledo.
- Tyrian Metaltail** *Metallura tyrianthina*: A few were seen around at Cerro Acanama.
- Viridian Metaltail** *Metallura williami*: Seen in the paramo and at the feeders in Cerro de Arcos.
- Neblina Metaltail** *Metallura odomae*: A gorgeous male was seen above the clouds at Cerro Toledo.
- Glowing Puffleg** *Eriocnemis vestita*: This striking bird was seen in elfin forest at Cerro Toledo and again near Saraguro.
- Shining Sunbeam** *Aglaeactis cupripennis*: Abundant at the feeders at Cerro de Arcos; also seen fighting over *Chuquiragua* flowers with a *Blue-throated Hillstar* at the same site!
- Brown Inca** *Coeligena wilsoni*: 1 or 2 were seen at in the upper sector of the reserve in Buenaventura.
- Collared Inca** *Coeligena torquate*: This dapper hummingbird was seen in the temperate cloudforest at Tapichalaca.
- Rainbow Starfrontlet** *Coeligena iris*: This spectacular species came into the feeders in the cloudforest at Utuana.
- Great Sapphirewing** *Pterophanes cyanopterus*: 1 in Cerro Toledo, and at least 2 at the feeders in Cerro de Arcos.
- Chestnut-breasted Coronet** *Boissonneaua matthewsii*: The most conspicuous feeder bird at Casa Simpson, Tapichalaca.
- Velvet-purple Coronet** *Boissonneaua jardini*: This phenomenal bird was foraging within *Verbena* flowers in Buenaventura.
- Booted Racket-tail** *Ocreatus underwoodii*: A couple of females were noted in Buenaventura; 2 males near Zamora too.
- Fawn-breasted Brilliant** *Heliodoxa rubinoides*: A couple were seen at the feeders in Tapichalaca.
- Green-crowned Brilliant** *Heliodoxa jacula*: Regular at the feeders beside Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura.
- Violet-fronted Brilliant** *Heliodoxa leadbeateri*: Regular at the Copalinga Lodge feeders.
- Long-billed Starthroat** *Heliothraupis longirostris*: 1 was seen in Jorupe by some only.
- Purple-collared Woodstar** *Myrtis fanny*: 2 female type birds were seen on the journey to Santa Isabel.
- Little Woodstar** *Chaetocercus bombus*: A handful was seen at the *Verbena* flowers in Mi Paradise, including at least 1 male.
- Blue-tailed Emerald** *Chlorostilbon mellisugus*: A few were seen foraging on the purple flowers at Mi Paradise.
- Violet-headed Hummingbird** *Klais guimeti*: A regular attendee at the *Verbena* flowers in the Copalinga Lodge garden.
- White-vented (Ecuadorian) Plumeleteer** *Chalybura buffonii intermedia*: 1 was seen at some blossoms at El Tundo.
- Crowned (Emerald-bellied) Woodnymph** *Thalurania colombica hypochlora*: Seen a few times at Buenaventura.
- Fork-tailed Woodnymph** *Thalurania furcata*: A regular at the Copalinga Lodge feeders.
- Tumbes Hummingbird** *Thaumasius baeri*: 2 birds were seen in dry deciduous scrub at El Empalme.
- Many-spotted Hummingbird** *Taphrospilus hypostictus*: Regular at the Copalinga Lodge feeders.
- Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia tzacatl*: Just a couple seen at Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura.
- Amazilia Hummingbird** *Amazilia amazilia*: Commonly encountered in the drier parts of the southwest (e.g. Jorupe); also (unusually), seen in the garden at Copalinga Lodge.
- Amazilia (Loja) Hummingbird** *Amazilia amazilia*: 1 of this form was seen in a garden in the city of Loja.
- Andean Emerald** *Uranomitra franciae*: Observed at the feeders in Buenaventura only.
- Golden-tailed Sapphire** *Chrysuronia oenone*: A few were seen in the eastern foothills at Yankuam & Copalinga Lodge.
- Glittering-throated Emerald** *Chionomesa fimbriata*: A few singles were seen at the Mi Paradise reserve.
- Violet-bellied Hummingbird** *Chlorestes julie*: Several by Umbrellabird Lodge, in Buenaventura.
- HOATZIN: OPISTHOCOMIDAE**
- Hoatzin** *Opisthocomus hoazin*: A handful were seen near the town of Nuevo Paraiso.
- RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS: RALLIDAE**
- Plumbeous Rail** *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*: We enjoyed excellent views of 2 one afternoon on the journey to Vilcabamba.
- Rufous-necked Wood-Rail** *Aramides axillaris*: 1 scuttled across the road at Manglares Churute but was not seen by all as it caught us by complete surprise. Another bird was found by Mary at Puerto Jeli and was bathed bathing in a puddle by all.
- Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata*: 1 was seen on a pond near Puerto Jeli.
- Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinica*: 1 was seen at La Lagartera.
- Chestnut-headed Crake** *Anurolimnas castaneiceps* (H): At least 2 were heard at Maycu Reserve, in the eastern foothills.
- Rufous-sided Crake** *Laterallus melanophaius* (H): 1 was heard along the Nuevo Paraiso Road.

White-throated Crane *Laterallus albigularis* (H): Heard calling from grassland in the upper part of Buenaventura Reserve.

[LIMPKIN: ARAMIDAE](#)

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*: A dozen or so were seen on the journey from Guayaquil to Manglares Churute.

[STILTS AND AVOCET: RECURVIROSTRIDAE](#)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*: Abundant on wetlands south of Guayaquil, also seen at La Ceiba.

[OYSTERCATCHERS: HAEMATOPODIDAE](#)

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*: 2 were seen on the tidal mud at Puerto Jeli.

[JACANAS: JACANIDAE](#)

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*: 2 birds were seen at La Lagartera.

[SANDPIPERS: SCOLOPACIDAE](#)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*: 15 or so birds were seen at Puerto Jeli.

Jameson's (Andean) Snipe *Gallinago jamesoni*: Sam flushed a bird from a known area at Cerro de Arcos. Thankfully, the bird flew low and slowly right past the group, giving them excellent flight views of this tricky paramo species.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*: Recorded on 3 days of the tour, including at Puerto Jelia and La Ceiba.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*: 3 birds were seen at Puerto Jeli.

[GULLS, TERNS, & SKIMMERS: LARIDAE](#)

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*: A few were seen around Manglares Churute.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*: A dozen or more were seen hawking above the saltponds near Manglares Churute.

[STORKS: CICONIIDAE](#)

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*: A few groups were seen at La Lagartera, Puerto Jeli and at La Ceiba

[FRIGATEBIRDS: FREGATIDAE](#)

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*: Encountered regularly in western lowlands on the first day.

[ANHINGAS: ANHINGIDAE](#)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*: 2 birds were seen at La Lagartera.

[CORMORANTS AND SHAGS: PHALACROCORACIDAE](#)

Neotropic Cormorant *Nannopterum brasilianum*: A few were seen around Puerto Jeli.

[HERONS, EGRETS, BITTERNS: ARDEIDAE](#)

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*: A few were noted in wetlands to the south of Guayaquil (e.g. La Lagartera).

Great Egret *Ardea alba*: Recorded regularly in wetlands just south of Guayaquil, and also at La Ceiba.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*: Regular in wetland areas just south of Guayaquil, and also seen in La Ceiba.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*: A few were seen on the first day on the many wetland areas south of Guayaquil.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: Recorded on 4 days of the tour.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*: 1 was seen on our first day, just south of Guayaquil.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: 1 was found at La Lagartera.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*: Also seen at La Lagartera, and very conspicuous at Puerto Jeli.

[IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE](#)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*: Hundreds were seen in the Manglares Churute area.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*: Half a dozen or more were noted in roadside wetlands to the south of Guayaquil.

[NEW WORLD VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE](#)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*: Recorded on all but a few days of the tour (absent from the highest sites).

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*: Recorded on all but a few days of the tour (absent from the highest sites).

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus*: Several were seen in the Nuevo Paraiso area.

[OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE](#)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: A single at Manglares Churute and La Lagartera.

[HAWKS, EAGLES, KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE](#)

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*: A single was seen at Manglares Churute.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*: Recorded on 3 days, with some very low close views at Buenaventura.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*: Lots featured on the journey south from Guayaquil on our first day of birding.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*: Recorded on 3 days, in Buenaventura and Jorupe.

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*: Sue spotted one of these fascinating raptors from the town of Sozoranga.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*: Recorded on 3 days, at La Lagartera and in the Jorupe area.

Barred Hawk *Morphnarchus princeps* (H): Heard at Buenaventura, while looking for a last-minute Brownish Twistwing.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*: Recorded on 7 days of the tour.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*: 1 was seen just south of Guayaquil, and another on the journey to Zapotillo.

Variable Hawk *Geranoaetus polyosoma*: 1 was being mobbed by Mountain Caracaras at Cerro de Arcos.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*: 3 sightings, at Cerro Toledo, Huashapamba and Cerro de Arcos.

Gray-backed Hawk *Pseudastur occidentalis*: A couple were seen at Buenaventura.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*: 2 circled above us at Buenaventura.

OWLS: STRIGIDAE

White-throated Screech-Owl *Megascops albogularis*: A single bird was seen at Tapichalaca.

Koepcke's Screech-Owl *Megascops koepckeae*: This rare and local species was seen at a known roost site in Loja.

Peruvian Screech-Owl *Megascops roboratus*: 1 was seen on our second night at Urraca Lodge.

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*: A pair seen on our second night at Urraca Lodge.

Band-bellied Owl *Pulsatrix melanota*: 1 was seen just outside Cabanas Yankuam.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*: 1 was seen at Nuevo Paraiso and watched being mobbed by a *Yellow-bellied Dacnis*.

Peruvian (Pacific) Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium peruanum*: Recorded in dry Tumbesian areas at Manglares Churute and Jorupe.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*: Our final, owl of the tour was a pair of them between Cerro de Arcos & Santa Isabel.

Mottled Owl *Ciccaba virgata*: An early start to try and see the dawn displays of *Long-wattled Umbrellabird* at Buenaventura gave us just enough time to locate one of these owls before the umbrellabird action began.

Black-and-white Owl *Ciccaba nigrolineata*: The star of our first night at Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura.

Buff-fronted Owl *Aegolius harrisi*: One of the undoubted highlights of the entire tour was all getting great looks at this notoriously difficult to see owl in Jorupe. Great credit must go to this group for their extreme patience that led to us getting this owl; it took 110 minutes from first hearing it until we finally saw it. Many others would have given up much earlier!

TROGONS: TROGONIDAE

Ecuadorian Trogon *Trogon mesurus*: Seen on 3 occasions, with our best looks of males coming in Jorupe Reserve.

Green-backed (Amaz. White-tailed) Trogon *Trogon viridis* (H): Heard once at Maycu.

Blue-crowned Trogon *Trogon curucui* (H): A singleton was heard near Maycu.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*: A male was seen in Buenaventura in the western foothills of the Andes.

Masked Trogon *Trogon personatus*: A male was seen by Sue and Sam near Valladolid, below Tapichalaca.

MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

Whooping (Blue-crowned) Motmot *Momotus subrufescens argenticinctus*: Wonderful, regular, views at Jorupe.

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii*: 1 in the eastern foothills near Copalinga Lodge, where it is scarce.

KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*: Noted regularly in wetland areas just to the south of Guayaquil.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*: 3 were seen together at Manglares Churute.

PUFFBIRDS: BUCCONIDAE

White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*: 1 bird shared a tree with *Purplish Jacamars* near Maycu.

Lanceolated Monklet *Micromonacha lanceolata*: A singleton at Maycu and a pair at Rio Bombuscaro.

JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE

Coppery-chested Jacamar *Galbula pastazae*: After a long battle, we all got good looks along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

Purplish Jacamar *Galbula chalcothorax*: Several birds were found in and around Maycu Reserve.

NEW WORLD BARBETS: CAPITONIDAE

Gilded Barbet *Capito auratus*: A pair of these gorgeous birds were our ultimate addition during our final visit to Maycu.

Lemon-throated Barbet *Eubucco richardsoni*: 1 was found in Maycu, and another by the *Hoatzin* site in Nuevo Paraiso.

Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii*: A male was seen near Palanda, below Tapichalaca.

TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

Chestnut-tipped Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus derbianus*: Sue found one on the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan *Andigena hypoglauca*: A super pair was seen at midday along a forest trail at Tapichalaca.

Lettered Aracari *Pteroglossus inscriptus*: A pair was seen on the Peruvian side of the road near Maycu Reserve.

Collared (Pale-mandibled) Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus erythropygius*: A couple were seen briefly at Manglares Churute.

Chestnut-eared Aracari *Pteroglossus castanotis*: A nesting bird was seen near Paquisha, and another near Maycu.

Golden-collared Toucanet *Selenidera reinwardtii*: A super opener during our first minutes in Maycu Reserve.

Yellow-throated Toucan (Chestnut-mandibled) Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus swainsonii*: Seen from Umbrellabird Lodge.

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus*: Several crossed the road in Maycu, after a prolonged bout of calling.

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Lafresnaye's Piculet *Picumnus lafresnayi*: 3 sightings, in Maycu and in Rio Bombuscaro, both in the eastern foothills.

Ecuadorian Piculet *Picumnus sclateri*: Some great looks in the deciduous forest at Jorupe.

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus*: To the delight of Sue in particular, we had some good looks after Jay spotted our first party in the Maycu area.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*: A singleton was noted at our very first stop, at a gas station near Manglares Churute.

Little Woodpecker *Dryobates passerines*: 1 was found in an open area near Nuevo Paraiso.

Scarlet-backed Woodpecker *Dryobates callonotus*: Recorded 3-4 times in the southwest (e.g. Jorupe, Manglares Churute).

Bar-bellied Woodpecker *Dryobates nigriceps*: A male was seen in the temperate forest of Tapichalaca.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos*: A male showed up during our final spell of birding near Maycu.

Guayaquil Woodpecker *Campephilus guayaquilensis*: A wonderful pair was seen in the western lowlands at Jorupe.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*: A female was located in Rio Bombuscaro.

White-throated Woodpecker *Piculus leucolaemus*: Another birding group put us onto a bird in Maycu Reserve.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus*: 1 was seen in Jorupe Reserve.

Crimson-mantled Woodpecker *Colaptes rivolii*: This spectacular species was seen in the highlands at Huashapamba.

Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula*: Phil spotted this bird for us all of us to see, in Nuevo Paraiso.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Black Caracara *Daptrius ater*: Seen on three separate occasions along the Nuevo Paraiso Road.

Mountain Caracara *Phalcoboenus megalopterus*: A few were seen in the paramo at Cerro de Arcos

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*: Seen twice, once by Phil and Mary at Jorupe, and then we left the Yakuam area.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*: Noted on 6 days of the tour.

Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis*: A single was seen at Jorupe in the west and another pair was seen at Mi Paradise in the east.

PARROTS: PSITTACIDAE

Gray-cheeked Parakeet *Brotogeris pyrrhoptera*: Some good looks around Manglares Churute & Jorupe.

Cobalt-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris cyanoptera*: Just two were seen that overflew us calling in Nuevo Paraiso.

Red-faced Parrot *Hapalopsittaca pyrrhops*: Thanks to Nick Athanas's group, we got a perched trio at Huashapamba.

Rose-faced Parrot *Pyrilia pulchra*: A group of 4 calling birds flew over us along the road at Buenaventura.

Red-billed Parrot *Pionus sordidus*: A single flock was seen along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus*: Several groups were seen in the eastern foothills around Maycu.

Bronze-winged Parrot *Pionus chalcopterus*: Several sightings at Manglares Churute and Buenaventura.

Red-lored Parrot (Amazon) *Amazona autumnalis lilacina*: A single flew over us calling in Manglares Churute.

Scaly-naped Parrot (Amazon) *Amazona mercenarias*: Good looks of a perched group along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

Pacific Parrotlet *Forpus coelestis*: Seen several times in the western lowlands.

El Oro Parakeet *Pyrrhura orcesi*: A group of 6 in Buenaventura, their remaining stronghold, where a pair was seen mating!

White-necked (breasted) Parakeet *Pyrrhura albipectus*: 7 were seen well perched in Rio Bombuscaro, and another group was seen in flight on the Old Loja-Zamora Road. The total world population may only number several thousand birds, with around 4 sites known. It is nearly endemic to Ecuador, just sneaking across the border into extreme northern Peru.

Golden-plumed Parakeet *Leptosittaca branickii*: Nice, perched looks in Tapichalaca.

Red-masked Parakeet *Psittacara erythrogenys*: Recorded on 6 days on the west side of the Andes (e.g. Buenaventura).

White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus*: Some nesting birds were seen well near the town of Palanda.

TYPICAL ANTBLIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus* (H): Heard several times in Maycu.

Great Antshrike *Taraba major* (H): Heard in Manglares Churute and Buenaventura.

Chapman's Antshrike *Thamnophilus zarumae*: A male and a female was seen in the southwest highlands at Utuana.

Lined Antshrike *Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus*: Single males were seen near the town of Palanda, in the eastern foothills.

Collared Antshrike *Thamnophilus bernardi*: A species of dry deciduous habitat, seen twice in Jorupe.

Black-crowned (Western Slaty) Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha* (H): Heard in humid forest in the west, at Buenaventura.

Plain-winged Antshrike *Thamnophilus schistaceus*: A single male was found at Maycu Reserve.

White-shouldered Antshrike *Thamnophilus aethiops* (H): 1 was heard in Maycu.

Russet Antshrike *Thamnistes anabatinus*: A pair was seen in Buenaventura.

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis* (H): Recorded in Manglares Churute.

Foothill Stipplethroat *Epinecrophylla spodionota*: 1 showed well to all in Maycu Reserve in the eastern foothills.

Moustached (Short-billed) Antwren *Myrmotherula ignota obscura* (H): A calling bird could not be located near Maycu.

Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor* (H): Heard in Buenaventura Reserve.

Yellow-breasted Antwren *Herpsilochmus axillaris*: 1 was seen inside Podocarpus NP.

Rusty-winged (Rufous-winged) Antwren *Herpsilochmus frater*: 1 was seen inside Maycu Reserve.

Peruvian Warbling-Antbird *Hypocnemis peruviana*: Good views of a pair in Maycu Reserve.

Blackish Antbird *Cercomacroides nigrescens*: A pair was found along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

Jet Antbird *Cercomacra nigricans*: A single male was seen at Manglares Churute.

Western (White-backed) Fire-eye *Pyriglena maura* (H): Heard in the western lowlands at Manglares Churute.

This was recently split from White-backed Fire-eye.

White-browed Antbird *Myrmoborus leucophrys* (H): Heard several times in the eastern foothills around Maycu.

Black-faced Antbird *Myrmoborus myotherinus* (H): A single was heard in Maycu Reserve.

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Poliocrania exsul*: 1 was seen in Buenaventura Reserve in the western foothills.

Gray-headed Antbird *Ampelornis griseiceps*: 1 was seen by all in a bamboo thicket in the cloudforest in the southwest highlands at Utuana.

Esmeraldas Antbird *Sipia nigricauda*: 1 was seen only briefly by some in the western foothills, at Buenaventura Reserve.

Zimmer's (Chestnut-tailed) Antbird *Sciaphylax castanea*: A female was seen near Maycu Reserve by most, and Sue also saw a male there.

Zeledon's (Immaculate) Antbird *Hafferia zeledoni* (H): Heard calling distantly in the western foothills at Buenaventura.

Common Scale-backed Antbird *Willisornis poecilinotus*: Curtis got good looks at a male at Rio Bombuscaro.

CRESCENTCHESTS: MELANOPAREIIDAE

Elegant Crescentchest *Melanopareia elegans*: This stunning local specialty was first found by Sue in El Empalme, and then a closer, much more visible bird, was seen by all in Jorupe.

ANTPITTAS: GRALLARIIDAE

Plain-backed Antpitta *Grallaria haplonota*: Amazingly, this ultra-elusive antpitta hopped into the open, if only for a moment, at Rio Bombuscaro.

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta *Grallaria ruficapilla* (H): Heard regularly in the southwest highlands at Utuana.

Watkins's Antpitta *Grallaria watkinsi*: We had exceptional looks at this dry forest species along the road at Jorupe.

Jocotoco Antpitta *Grallaria ridgelyi*: 3 birds visited a feeding station at Tapichalaca, the only reliable place to see this species on Earth. The juvenile came in repeatedly and spent a long time with us as we sheltered in the rain there.

Chestnut-naped Antpitta *Grallaria nuchalis*: 1 appeared belatedly at the Jocotoco Antpitta feeding station in Tapichalaca.

Equatorial (Rufous) Antpitta *Grallaria saturate*: One came into a feeding area, along a trail at Tapichacala.

This was recently split from Rufous Antpitta.

Tawny Antpitta *Grallaria quitensis*: 1 was seen perched in shrubby paramo in Cerro de Arcos.

Thrush-like Antpitta *Myrmothera campanisona* (H): Heard close at Maycu Reserve.

Leymebamba (Rusty-breasted) Antpitta *Grallaricula leymebambae* (H): A close calling bird could not be located in Utuana.
Slate-crowned Antpitta *Grallaricula nana*: A single showed well in the bamboo-dominated temperate forest at Tapichalaca.

TAPACULOS: RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Ocellated Tapaculo *Acropternis orthonyx*: Wonderful views were obtained of this giant, spotted tapaculo at Cerro Acanama.

Ash-colored Tapaculo *Myornis senilis* (H): Heard once distantly near Saraguro.

(Northern) White-crowned Tapaculo *Scytalopus atratus*: A bird hopped out into an opening on the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

Loja (Paramo) Tapaculo *Scytalopus androstictus* (H): 1 was seen by all in shrubby paramo up on Cerro Toledo.

Recently (2021) split from Paramo Tapaculo.

Blackish (Unicolored) Tapaculo *Scytalopus latrans* (H): Heard regularly at Utuana Reserve.

Chusquea Tapaculo *Scytalopus parkeri*: Seen by all in Tapichalaca Reserve, within *Chusquea* bamboo.

ANTTHRUSHES: FORMICARIIDAE

Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis* (H): Several birds were heard in the eastern foothills, in and around Maycu.

Short-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza campanisona* (H): Several were heard from the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

OVENBIRDS & WOODCREEPERS: FURNARIIDAE

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (west) *Sittasomus griseicapillus aequatorialis*: 2 were found in the west, in Jorupe.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (east) *Sittasomus griseicapillus amazonus*: 1 was seen in the eastern foothills at Bombuscaro.

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*: First seen in Manglares Churute, then again in Buenaventura.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*: Recorded 4-5 times in the foothills of the east slope of the Andes.

Ocellated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus ocellatus napensis*: 1 was located by Nick at Maycu Reserve.

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*: Several sightings in Buenaventura, in the western foothills.

Olive-backed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus triangularis*: A single was seen in Maycu Reserve.

Red-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*: A calling bird was located by Urraca Lodge in the dry forest of Jorupe.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*: Regularly recorded in the lowlands of the west (e.g. Jorupe).

Montane Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*: 1 showed up in a cloudforest mixed flock in Utuana.

Duida (Lineated) Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes duidae*: 1 was found in a mixed flock in Maycu.

Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans*: 1 was noted in Buenaventura Reserve.

Pale-legged (Pacific) Hornero *Furnarius leucopus cinnamomeus*: Recorded on 9 days of the tour in the dry southwest and Interandean Valleys.

Chestnut-winged (Bar-winged) Cinclodes *Cinclodes albidiventris*: A nesting pair was observed in paramo at Cerro de Arcos.

Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia variegaticeps*: A couple were found in mixed feeding flocks at Buenaventura.

Montane Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia striaticollis*: A singleton was in a mixed flock in Podocarpus NP at Rio Bombuscaro.

Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia ruficaudata*: Several birds were identified by voice in Maycu Reserve.

Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla ruficollis*: We got great views in Jorupe.

Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner *Clibanornis erythrocephalus*: Seen twice in the Tumbesian deciduous dry forest at Jorupe.

Ruddy Foliage-gleaner *Clibanornis rubiginosus*: A calling bird was glimpsed near Maycu Reserve in the eastern foothills.

Striped (Eastern) Woodhaunter *Automolus subulatus subulatus*: Excellent views of a calling bird near Maycu.

Pearled Treerunner *Margarornis squamiger*: This handsome, highland, flock-dweller was seen at Tapichalaca, and Saraguro.

Rufous-fronted Thornbird *Phacellodomus rufifrons*: Several were found near Palanda, south of Tapichalaca.

White-browed Spinetail *Hellmayrea gularis* (H): One individual was heard in temperate forest above the town of Saraguro.

Many-striped Canastero *Asthenes flammulata*: Seen within shrubby paramo at Cerro de Arcos.

Streak-backed Canastero *Asthenes wyatti*: Really good looks at this species in paramo grassland at Cerro de Arcos.

Mouse-colored Thistletail *Asthenes griseomurina*: 1 was seen in the highlands at Cerro Acanama.

Ash-browed Spinetail *Cranioleuca curtata*: Recorded in Palanda and also in Rio Bombuscaro, both in the eastern foothills.

Line-cheeked Spinetail *Cranioleuca antisiensis*: Several were located in Utuana & on the lower slopes of Cerro Toledo.

Speckled Spinetail *Cranioleuca gutturata*: A real scarcity, found by Nick in Maycu Reserve.

Dark-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albigularis* (H): Heard only, at a few sites in the eastern foothills.

Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae*: A couple of sightings only, (e.g. in Utuana).

Blackish-headed Spinetail *Synallaxis tithys*: Sue found a wonderfully cooperative bird in the open, dry forest at Jorupe.

Rufous Spinetail *Synallaxis unirufa*: A very confiding bird was watched in a bamboo thicket at Tapichalaca.

MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus* (H): Heard in Buenaventura.

Club-winged Manakin *Machaeropterus deliciosus*: A displaying male was seen in Buenaventura at the edge of its range.

Striolated (Striped) Manakin *Machaeropterus striolatus*: A beautiful male during an afternoon walk in Podocarpus NP.

COTINGAS: COTINGIDAE

Green-and-black Fruiteater *Pipreola riefferii*: Several sightings within mixed flocks in and around Tapichalaca.

Barred Fruiteater *Pipreola arcuate*: A female was watched in the rain from the Jocotoco Antpitta shelter at Tapichalaca.

Fiery-throated Fruiteater *Pipreola chlorolepidota*: Sue and Curtis saw 1 in Maycu that swiftly vanished!

Scaled Fruiteater *Ampelioides tschudii*: A Nick Athanas tip off led us to good looks at a male in Buenaventura.

Andean Cock-of-the-rock *Rupicola peruvianus*: Some males were seen in excited pursuit of a female at Rio Bombuscaro. Another bright orange male flew over us in the parking lot at Copalinga Lodge, a memorable moment.

Amazonian Umbrellabird *Cephalopterus ornatus*: A pair was seen near Macyu, and then better, prolonged views of a white plumed male were obtained in Rio Bombuscaro.

Long-wattled Umbrellabird *Cephalopterus penduliger*: 2 displaying males were seen at dawn at Buenaventura, where wattles were at full stretch and the crest feathers were elongated to full dramatic effect!

TITYRAS AND ALLIES: TITYRIDAE

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*: A male was seen feeding in a cecropia tree just south of Maycu.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*: Recorded three times in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Northern (Thrush-like) Schiffornis *veraepacis rosenbergi* (H): Heard in the western foothills at Buenaventura.

Green-backed (Yellow-cheeked) Becard *Pachyramphus viridis xanthogenys*: Nick pulled in a single near Palanda.

Barred Becard *Pachyramphus versicolor*: A female was found in a cloudforest mixed flock beside Casa Simpson, Tapichalaca.

Slaty Becard *Pachyramphus spodiurus*: A male gave exceptional views at the entrance to Jorupe Reserve one morning.

Chestnut-crowned Becard *Pachyramphus castaneus*: 1 was seen briefly by Sue and Christian in Mi Paradise.

White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus nigriventris*: A male was seen on our final morning in the Maycu area.

Black-and-white Becard *Pachyramphus albogriseus*: 1 male was noted in Buenaventura.

One-colored Becard *Pachyramphus homochrous*: Several sightings in the west, (e.g. Buenaventura & Jorupe).

SHARPBILL, ROYAL FLY, & ALLIES: OXYRUNCIDAE

(Pacific) Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus coronatus occidentalis*: 2 different birds were seen in Manglares Churute.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terentotriccus erythrurus*: Curtis saw 1 of these bright flycatchers in Maycu in the eastern foothills.

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher *Myiobius sulphureipygius*: This hyperactive flycatcher was observed once in Buenaventura.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris*: 2 birds were seen early one morning in Maycu Reserve.

White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus*: A single bird was seen, with crest erected, at Buenaventura.

Streak-necked Flycatcher *Mionectes striaticollis*: Just 1 was seen along the road below Tapichalaca.

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus*: A couple were seen in Rio Bombuscaro in Podocarpus NP.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus*: 1 was found during our final spell in Jorupe Reserve.

Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliaris*: Seen in the foothills of the west, at Buenaventura.

Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant *Phylloscartes ophthalmicus*: A singleton was attending a mixed flock in Rio Bombuscaro.

Ecuadorian Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes gualaquizae*: A few calling birds were recorded in the Maycu area.

Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant *Pseudotriccus ruficeps*: Amazing looks at a pair of these birds in Tapichalaca, thanks to Diego.

White-bellied Pygmy-Tyrant *Myiornis albiventris*: 2 singles were seen inside Maycu Reserve.

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus* (H): Heard several times in the west (e.g. Buenaventura).

Black-throated Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus granadensis*: Seen well within temperate forest at Tapichalaca.

Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus ruficeps*: 2 were seen briefly in Utuana's cloudforest.

Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus capitalis*: A striking male was seen in the Maycu area.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*: Recorded on 6 occasions.

Brownish Twistwing *Chnipodectes subbrunneus*: Observed twice in Buenaventura Reserve in the western foothills.

Fulvous-breasted Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus fulvipectus*: Good looks at a flock attendee in Rio Bombuscaro.

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (Flatbill) (southeast) *Tolmomyias sulphurescens peruvianus*: A couple were recorded around Maycu.

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (Flatbill) (west) *Tolmomyias sulphurescens aequatorialis*: A few were seen in the dry southwest.

Cinnamon Flycatcher *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*: A few were seen within temperate cloudforest in Tapichalaca Reserve.

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*: Several on roadside wires in the eastern Andean foothills near Zamora.

Ornate Flycatcher *Myiobrycon ornatus stellatus*: Seen on the west slope of the Andes, at Buenaventura.

Ornate Flycatcher *Myiobrycon ornatus phoenicurus*: Recorded regularly in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Orange-banded Flycatcher *Nephelomyias lintoni*: A party of 5 or so were seen in wet temperate cloudforest in Tapichalaca.

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*: Recorded 5 times in the dry southwest.

White-banded Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus stictopterus*: Some great looks beside Casa Simpson in Tapichalaca.

Black-crested Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes nigrocristatus*: A super bird was seen near the southwest highland town of Utuana.

Foothill Elaenia *Myiopagis olallai*: A single was found in a large mixed flock at Rio Bombuscaro.
This species was only described in the year 2000.

Pacific Elaenia *Myiopagis subplacens*: Noted at Manglares Churute, El Empalme & Jorupe in the Tumbesian dry southwest.

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata* (H): Heard at Manglares Churute, in the western lowlands.

Mottle-backed Elaenia *Elaenia gigas*: Some good looks at this distinctive elaenia near Palanda.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*: A few were seen in patchy forest in the eastern foothills around Palanda.

Lesser Elaenia *Elaenia chiriquensis*: Several unidentified elaenias were seen in the eastern foothills below Tapichalaca, where at least 1 bird was heard and could therefore be positively identified by voice as this species.

White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps*: A few were seen in the subtropical forest in Utuana in the southwest highlands.

Sierran Elaenia *Elaenia pallatangae*: 1 was seen on the lower flanks of Cerro Toledo.

Black-capped Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias nigrocapillus*: Diego pointed us to a singleton from the antpitta shelter in Tapichalaca.

Red-billed Tyrannulet *Zimmerius cinereicapilla* (H): A calling bird could not be located just outside of Maycu.

Golden-faced Tyrannulet *Zimmerius chrysops*: Just one actually seen, along the road to Nuevo Paraiso.

Peruvian (Loja) Tyrannulet *Zimmerius viridiflavus flavidifrons*: Conspicuous at one site, El Tundo Reserve, near Sozoranga.

Fulvous-headed (Tawny-crowned) Pygmy-Tyrant *Euscarthmus fulviceps*: Scattered sightings in the dry southwest.
This was recently (2021) split from Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant (in 2021).

Olive-chested Flycatcher *Myiophobus cryptoxanthus*: A calling bird was located near Palanda in the eastern foothills.

Bran-colored Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus*: Heard regularly in the west, where just 1 was seen at Manglares Churute.

Euler's Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus euleri* (H): Called regularly at dawn in Maycu Reserve.

Gray-breasted Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus griseipectus*: 1 of several calling birds was located in Jorupe.

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*: This migrant species was scoped along the road to Nuevo Paraiso.

Smoke-colored Pewee *Contopus fumigatus*: Seen at Cerro Toledo and also at Huashapamba.

Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus*: Several calling birds were identified along the road to Nuevo Paraiso.

Tropical (Tumbes) Pewee *Contopus cinereus punensis*: A few were seen in Jorupe Reserve, where heard regularly.

Blackish Pewee *Contopus nigrescens*: 1 was found late in the day, along the Nuevo Paraiso road, where it is fast disappearing.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*: This riparian species was recorded on at least 9 days.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*: Noted at La Lagartera and also on the journey to Santa Isabel.

Plain-capped (Páramo) Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola alpinus* (GO): 1 was seen from the pick up at Cerro de Arcos.

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus*: A single bird was seen perched in the paramo at Cerro de Arcos.

Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant *Myiotheretes striaticollis*: A single was seen in the highland town of Saraguro.

Smoky Bush-Tyrant *Myiotheretes fumigatus* (H): A single was heard in Huashapamba.

Masked Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola nengeta*: Some nice views in the wet lowlands at La Lagartera.

Tumbes Tyrant *Tumbezia salvini*: A pair was seen with some effort in late afternoon at Zapotillo, near the Peruvian border.

Crowned Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca frontalis*: A pair was seen at close quarters in a bamboo thicket in Cerro Acanama.

Jelski's Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca jelskii*: A few heard and 1 seen, inside the Jocotoco reserve at Utuana.

Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca diadema* (GO): Seen by Sam only in Tapichalaca.

Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*: A pair was seen from Casa Simpson in Tapichalaca.

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca fumicolor*: Recorded in shrubbery in the high Andean paramo in Cerro de Arcos.
Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*: This spectacular tyrant was seen several times in the foothills in the Maycu area.
Short-tailed Field Tyrant *Muscigralla brevicauda*: Several were found within dry country on the journey to Santa Isabel.
Ochraceous Attila *Attila torridus*: Curtis found a wonderfully easy pair in a cleared area at Buenaventura.
Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*: A few were seen around Buenaventura.
Sooty-crowned Flycatcher *Myiarchus phaeocephalus*: Excellent views of a single calling bird at Manglares Churute.
Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*: A pair was found on our journey to Yankuam.
Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*: Seen in the west at Jorupe and also recorded in the Maycu area in the east.
Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis*: Several calling birds were identified and seen at La Lagartera.
Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*: Regular in the lowlands and foothills of the east.
Gray-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis*: A couple only, in the foothills around Yankuam and Maycu.
Lemon-browed Flycatcher *Conopias cinchoneti*: A boisterous, vocal, pair was seen in Rio Bombuscaro.
Baird's Flycatcher *Myiodynastes bairdii*: Only seen at La Ceiba, where we targeted the species one late afternoon.
Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*: Just a few were seen, in Jorupe Reserve.
Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaius*: A few singles were seen in the eastern foothills, at Palanda and near Nuevo Paraiso.
Snowy-throated Kingbird *Tyrannus niveigularis*: Sue located our only one, at Zapotillo, close to the Peruvian border.
Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*: Very regularly encountered throughout, on at least 10 days.

VIREOS AND ALLIES: VIREONIDAE

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*: Recorded on 5 tour days.
Olivaceous Greenlet *Hylophilus olivaceus*: 1 was seen in the eastern foothills, near the town of Palanda.
Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius leucotis* (GO): Just Sam clocked one, high in the treetops in Maycu Reserve.
Lesser Greenlet *Pachysylvia decurtate*: Just a couple were seen, in Buenaventura.
Dusky-capped Greenlet *Pachysylvia hypoxantha*: A pair in the tall foothill forest at the wonderful Maycu Reserve.
Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys*: 2 birds were seen in the southwest highlands, in Utuana Reserve.
Chivi Vireo *Vireo chivi*: A few were seen in Manglares Churute and then again in the Palanda area.

CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES: CORVIDAE

Turquoise Jay *Cyanolyca turcosa*: A marvelous bird was seen in Huashapamba.
Green (Inca) Jay *Cyanocorax yncas*: Just 1 was seen at Copalinga Lodge, in the Andean foothills on the east slope.
Violaceous Jay *Cyanocorax violaceus*: A few were seen around Yankuam.
White-tailed Jay *Cyanocorax mystacalis*: A sharp Tumbesian specialty seen regularly in the deciduous dry forest in Jorupe.

DONACOBIUS: DONACOBIIDAE

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla*: This handsome marsh bird was seen along the road into Yankuam.

SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*: A very regularly encountered species, seen on all but a few days.
Brown-bellied Swallow *Orochelidon murina*: A highland swallow, seen near Saraguro and in Cerro de Arcos.
White-thighed Swallow *Atticora tibialis*: A few were scoped perched on wires with the next species, on the way out Yakuam.
White-banded Swallow *Atticora fasciata*: This handsome swallow was found on the journey out of Yankuam.
Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*: Regular in the lowlands and foothills, recorded on at least 8 days.
Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*: Commonly encountered in the western lowlands.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: A few were seen on our first day in the western lowlands at Manglares Churute.
Chestnut-collared Swallow *Petrochelidon rufocollaris*: Around 40 birds were seen by their mud nests in Sozoranga.

GNATCATCHERS: POLIOPTILIDAE

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus* (H): A couple were heard only in Manglares Churute.
White-browed Gnatcatcher *Polioptila bilineata*: Regularly encountered in dry forests and scrub in the western lowlands.
This species was split from Tropical Gnatcatcher in 2021.

WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

Scaly-breasted (Southern Nightingale) Wren *Microcerculus marginatus* (H): Heard a few times around Maycu.
House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*: Scattered sightings throughout.

Mountain Wren *Troglodytes solstitialis*: 3 birds were seen in temperate forest zone in Tapichalaca.

Grass (Sedge) Wren *Cistothorus platensis*: Seen in shrubby paramo in Cerro Acanama and Cerro de Arcos.

This species was finally split from the very different sounding Sedge Wren in 2021.

Fasciated Wren *Campylorhynchus fasciatus*: Recorded on 5 days of the tour, in the dry southwest.

Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus*: A couple, giving their rollicking call, were seen near to Maycu.

Plain-tailed Wren *Pheugopedius euophrys* (H): This shy wren was heard regularly in Tapichalaca & also in Huashapamba.

Whiskered Wren *Pheugopedius mystacalis*: Sue managed to see one of these birds Buenaventura.

Coraya Wren *Pheugopedius coraya*: 1 was found in Maycu Reserve in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Speckle-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius sclateri*: Several seen in the western Tumbesian realm at Jorupe.

Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus* (H): Heard regularly in Buenaventura.

Superciliated Wren *Cantorchilus superciliaris*: Seen in the western lowlands at Manglares Churute and Jorupe.

Rufous Wren *Cinnycerthia unirufa*: A few were seen in stands of bamboo in Tapichalaca's temperate forest.

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticte*: 1 showed well in the Copalinga Lodge garden.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*: Seen well in Buenaventura.

Song Wren *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*: A singing bird was seen well in Buenaventura. A beautiful songster.

Musician Wren *Cyphorhinus arada* (H): Its glorious song was heard once in Maycu Reserve.

DIPPERS: CINCLIDAE

White-capped Dipper *Cinclus leucocephalus* (H): Ridiculously, heard, while trying to locate an Olive Finch in Pocodarpus.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: MIMIDAE

Long-tailed Mockingbird *Mimus longicaudatus*: Very regularly seen in dry, scrubby habitats of the southwest (i.e. 5 days).

THRUSHES AND ALLIES: TURDIDAE

Andean Solitaire *Myadestes ralloides* (H): Only heard a couple of times, in Buenaventura.

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus fuscater*: 1 was seen poorly along the trail at Utuana.

Speckled (Spotted) Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus maculatus*: Wonderful views of a singing bird at Buenaventura.

*Recently split from the Central American birds, which were formerly lumped under the name **Spotted Nightingale-Thrush**.*

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*: Recorded at least 6 times in the eastern foothills.

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis*: 2 fed on a trail in front of us at Copalinga Lodge.

Ecuadorian Thrush *Turdus maculirostris*: Recorded on 3 occasions at Jorupe.

Pale-eyed Thrush *Turdus leucops*: Sue located a singing bird along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

Plumbeous-backed Thrush *Turdus reevei*: This handsome specialty was seen 3 times in the dry deciduous forest at Jorupe.

Black-billed Thrush *Turdus ignobilis*: Most prominent during the drive into Yankuam, in degraded forest in the foothills.

Marañon Thrush *Turdus maranonicus*: A key specialty seen around Palanda on several occasions.

Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater*: Regularly noted in highland areas.

Chiguanco Thrush *Turdus chiguanco*: 1 was seen from the restaurant in Saraguro town.

Andean Slaty Thrush *Turdus nigriceps*: 1 showed a few times in El Tundo Reserve.

Glossy-black Thrush *Turdus serranus*: Just the one was seen in Utuana.

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: MOTACILLIDAE

Paramo Pipit *Anthus bogotensis*: A single singing bird was located among the tussock grass in the paramo of Cerro de Arcos.

SISKINS AND ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

Purple-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chlorotica*: A pair was seen for a short time, near Palanda.

Golden-bellied (White-lored) Euphonia *Euphonia chrysopasta*: A pair collecting nesting material near Nuevo Paraiso.

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris*: Regularly recorded in the dry parts of the west (on 5 days).

Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster*: Noted on 5 days of the tour.

Yellow-bellied Siskin *Spinus xanthogastrus*: A striking male sat in a dead tree for some time, at Buenaventura.

Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus*: A few in Buenaventura and another was seen by Jay in the highland town of Saraguro.

Saffron Siskin *Spinus siemiradzkii*: This unpredictable species proved relatively easy this tour with a party of 3 at Jorupe (including a bright yellow male), and another 2 in Zapotillo.

Olivaceous Siskin *Spinus olivaceus*: A few were seen well near Palanda, in the eastern foothills.

SPARROWS AND ALLIES: PASSERELLIDAE

Yellow-throated Chlorospingus (Bush-Tanager) *Chlorospingus flavigularis*: Recorded on 5 days in the foothills of east & west.

Ashy-throated Chlorospingus (B. Tanager) *Chlorospingus canigularis*: A few were seen in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Common Chlorospingus (Bush-Tanager) *Chlorospingus flavopectus*: A few were seen in Buenaventura & near Zamora.

Tumbes Sparrow *Rhynchospiza stolzmanni*: Curtis located a pair in the dry deciduous scrub in Zapotillo.

Yellow-browed Sparrow *Ammodramus aurifrons*: A few were seen hopping along the road to Nuevo Paraiso.

Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris*: A calling bird was seen in Buenaventura.

Gray-browed (Stripe-headed) Brushfinch *Arremon assimilis* (H): 2 were heard around Utuana and El Tundo.

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantirostris*: Seen in the western & eastern foothills, with our best views at Copalinga.

Black-capped Sparrow *Arremon abeillei*: 4-5 birds were seen in Jorupe.

Olive Finch *Arremon castaneiceps*: A pair of this difficult, riparian, species was found beside the Rio Bombuscaro.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*: Commonly encountered in highland areas.

White-headed Brushfinch *Atlapetes albiceps*: 2 parties were found in dry deciduous forest at El Empalme.

Yellow-breasted (Rufous-naped) Brushfinch *Atlapetes latinuchus*: Noted in the highlands, at Tapichalaca & near Saraguro.

White-winged Brushfinch (southwest) *Atlapetes leucopterus dresseri*: 4 were found in a scrubby area near Sozoranga.

White-winged Brushfinch (Paynter's) *Atlapetes leucopterus paynteri*: A pair were seen just above Valladolid.

Bay-crowned Brushfinch *Atlapetes seebohmi*: 2 sightings in the southwest highlands, near Utuana & Sozoranga.

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES: ICTERIDAE

Peruvian Meadowlark *Leistes bellicosus*: 2 at La Lagartera were our only ones of the tour.

Russet-backed Oropendola *Psarocolius angustifrons*: Conspicuous (on 6 days) in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus*: Also conspicuous in the eastern foothills of the Andes (on 4 days).

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela*: Recorded in lowland areas of the dry southwest and also in the eastern foothills.

(Northern) Mountain Cacique *Cacicus chrysonotus leucoramphus*: A single, vociferous, group was located in Huashapamba.

White-edged Oriole *Icterus graceannae*: Seen regularly in the western lowlands around Jorupe, including at the feeders.

Yellow-tailed Oriole *Icterus mesomelas*: Our best looks came at the hummingbird feeders at Jorupe.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*: A few were seen on our first day, in the coastal, western lowlands.

Scrub Blackbird *Dives waczewiczi*: Very conspicuous and common in the western lowlands in particular.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*: Notably conspicuous in the tiny coastal town of Puerto Jeli.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Olive-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis semiflava* (H): 1 was heard in the upper part of Buenaventura.

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi*: A trip regular, see on at least 8 different days.

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*: Small numbers were picked out of flocks in the eastern foothills (e.g. near Zamora).

Yellow (Mangrove) Warbler *Setophaga petechia peruviana*: A few along the mangrove boardwalk at Manglares Churute.

Three-banded Warbler *Basileuterus trifasciatus*: A specialty seen in the western cloudforests of Utuana & El Tundo.

Citrine Warbler *Myiothlypis luteoviridis*: A couple were seen at Tapichalaca and near Saraguro.

Black-crested Warbler *Myiothlypis nigrocristata*: Our best looks came above Saraguro.

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda* (GO): This riparian, terrestrial warbler was seen by Sam at Buenaventura.

Gray-and-gold Warbler *Myiothlypis fraseri*: Regularly encountered in the dry deciduous forest at Jorupe.

Russet-crowned Warbler *Myiothlypis coronate*: Seen in Tapichalaca only.

Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis*: A few were seen in the eastern foothills (e.g. Maycu, Podocarpus NP).

Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart) *Myioborus miniatus*: A regular flock attendee, seen on at least 7 days.

Spectacled Redstart (Whitestart) *Myioborus melanocephalus*: This temperate warbler was noted in Tapichalaca & Saraguro.

GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE

(Highland) Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava lutea*: Just one pair was sighted in Jorupe.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* (H): Heard along the Nuevo Paraiso Road, in the eastern foothills.

Ochre-breasted Tanager *Chlorothraupis stolzmanni*: 4 turned up in a mixed flock in the western foothills at Buenaventura.

Golden (Southern Yellow) Grosbeak *Pheucticus chrysogaster*: Recorded on 4 days of the tour, within dry areas.

TANAGERS AND ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE

Black-faced Tanager *Schistochlamys melanopis*: A single bird was seen near Palanda.

Magpie Tanager *Cissopis leverianus*: A few were seen here and there, in the foothills of the Andes, on the east slope.

Black-capped Hemispingus *Kleinotheraupis atopileus*: 2 sightings in the dense bamboo understory in Tapichalaca.

Buff-bellied Tanager *Thlypopsis inornata* (H): Frustratingly, only heard, just outside Palanda.

Superciliaried Hemispingus *Thlypopsis superciliaris*: A couple attended a mixed flock in temperate forest above Saraguro.

Rufous-chested Tanager *Thlypopsis ornate*: A criminally underrated tanager, seen in Utuana and Saraguro.

Flame-crested Tanager *Loriotus cristatus*: A couple of sightings in mixed flocks in the eastern foothills around Maycu.

White-shouldered Tanager *Loriotus luctuosus*: A female was seen beside Umbrellabird Lodge, in Buenaventura.

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*: A few were seen near Palanda.

Fulvous Shrike-Tanager *Lanio fulvus*: A handful of these scarce tanagers were seen in Maycu.

Flame-rumped (Lemon-rumped) Tanager *Ramphocelus flammigerus icteronotus*: Conspicuous at Buenaventura.

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo*: Abundant and conspicuous in scrubby areas in the eastern foothills.

Orange-throated Tanager *Wetmorethraupis sterrhopteron*: A very rare and spectacular tanager, even within this family that is already overcrowded with stunners! A single was seen at Maycu Reserve, its sole Ecuadorian stronghold.

Hooded Mountain-Tanager *Buthraupis montana*: Some excellent views were had in temperate cloudforest at Tapichalaca.

Blue-capped Tanager *Sporathraupis cyanocephala*: Seen once near Utuana.

Lacrimose Mountain Tanager *Anisognathus lacrymosus*: A temperate forest bird seen in flocks at Tapichalaca & Saraguro.

Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager *Anisognathus igniventris*: A very highly rated pair was seen in a flock above Saraguro.

Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager *Anisognathus notabilis*: A pair of these very local birds were seen perched in the cloudforest in the western foothills in Buenaventura, where it is rare.

Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager *Dubusia taeniata* (H): Heard only briefly on Cerro Toledo.

Golden-crowned Tanager *Iridosornis rufivertex*: Yet another gorgeous temperate tanager, seen in a flock at Cerro Acanama.

Orange-eared Tanager *Chlorochrysa calliparaea*: One of many spectacular *foothill* tanagers, seen well in Rio Bombuscaro.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*: The most regularly encountered tanager, recorded on at least 11 days of the tour.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*: Recorded on 6 days of the tour.

Rufous-throated Tanager *Ixothraupis rufigula*: A couple of parties of this handsome bird were encountered in Buenaventura.

Yellow-bellied Tanager *Ixothraupis xanthogastra*: A handful were seen in the eastern foothills, at Maycu & Podocarpus NP.

Spotted Tanager *Ixothraupis punctata*: Several were spotted in the eastern foothills at Rio Bombuscaro.

Golden-naped Tanager *Chalcothraupis ruficervix*: 2 birds were found along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

Silvery (Silver-backed) Tanager *Stilpnia viridicollis*: Seen three times, in Utuana, El Tundo and near Valadollid.

Blue-necked Tanager *Stilpnia cyanicollis*: Seen in the foothills of the Andes on both slopes (on 7 tour days).

Blue-and-black Tanager *Tangara vassorii*: This highland tanager was seen in Utuana, Tapichalaca and near Saraguro.

Beryl-spangled Tanager *Tangara nigroviridis*: 1 was in the cloudforest at Buenaventura, and another near Valladolid.

Turquoise Tanager *Tangara Mexicana*: 2 birds were scoped in Maycu Reserve in the tanager-rich eastern foothills.

Paradise Tanager *Tangara chilensis*: This, one of the most spectacular tanagers of all, was seen regularly in the eastern foothills (e.g. Palanda, Maycu & Rio Bombuscaro).

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*: Small numbers were seen in mixed flocks in the foothills of both slopes of the Andes.

Golden-eared Tanager *Tangara chrysotis*: Another stunning tanager of the eastern foothills, seen in Rio Bombuscaro.

Flame-faced Tanager *Tangara parzudakii*: 2 were seen in the upper part of Buenaventura Reserve.

Green-and-gold Tanager *Tangara schrankii*: Recorded on 3 days within mixed flocks in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Golden Tanager *Tangara arthus*: Scattered sightings in the western and eastern foothills of the Andes.

Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala*: Only recorded in the foothills of the west, at Buenaventura Reserve.

Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis*: Noted on 3 days in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Black-faced Dacnis *lineata lineata*: Noted in Palanda and Maycu, in the eastern foothills.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*: A couple were found near Palanda, and another in Rio Bombuscaro.

Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus*: A few were seen along the Nuevo Paraiso Road.

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*: Most conspicuous at the Buenaventura feeders, where very conspicuous.

Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira*: Recorded three times, at Buenaventura, near Palanda and in Maycu Reserve.

Blue-backed Conebill *Conirostrum sitticolor*: A few were seen moving with mixed flocks in Tapichalaca's cloudforest.

Capped Conebill *Conirostrum albifrons*: A male was found in a single mixed flock at Tapichalaca.

Glossy Flowerpiercer *Diglossa lafresnayii*: A few were found in elfin forest at Cerro Toledo and above Saraguro.

Black Flowerpiercer *Diglossa humeralis*: 1 was seen in the highlands near Saraguro.

White-sided Flowerpiercer *Diglossa albilatera (H)*: Heard several times, in the cloudforest at Tapichalaca.

Bluish Flowerpiercer *Diglossa caeruleascens*: 1-2 birds were seen by the antpitta feeding station in Tapichalaca.

Masked Flowerpiercer *Diglossa cyanea*: Regularly recorded in higher cloudforest areas (e.g. Utuana, Tapichalaca, Saraguro).

Plushcap *Catamblyrhynchus diadema*: This bamboo-loving, temperate forest tanager was found in Tapichalaca.

Plumbeous Sierra Finch *Geospizopsis unicolor*: A handful were seen in the paramo in Cerro de Arcos.

Ash-breasted Sierra Finch *Geospizopsis plebejus*: A few were found in El Empalme.

Band-tailed Sierra Finch *Rhopospina alaudina*: Half a dozen or more birds were found in dry country near Santa Isabel.

Black-headed Hemispingus *Pseudospingus verticalis*: A small party were found in a temperate forest flock above Saraguro.

Gray-hooded Bush Tanager *Cnemoscopus rubrirostris*: A few here and there in flocks at Tapichalaca.

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*: Particularly conspicuous in dry areas in the southwest and Interandean Valleys (on 7 days).

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*: A displaying, charcoal, male was seen at Nuevo Paraiso.

Chestnut-throated Seedeater *Sporophila telasco*: 10+ birds were found in open country at La Lagartera on our first day.

Drab Seedeater *Sporophila simplex*: 1 was scoped in dry country not far from Santa Isabel.

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila castaneiventris*: A handful were seen in open areas along the road to Nuevo Paraiso.

Thick-billed (Lesser) Seed-Finch *Sporophila funereal*: 2 males were seen along the entrance road to Buenaventura Reserve.

Chestnut-bellied (Lesser) Seed-Finch *Sporophila angolensis*: Several were seen along the road to Cabanas Yankuam.

Black-billed Seed-Finch *Sporophila atrirostris*: At least 4 were seen within some rank grasslands on the road into Yankuam.

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina*: Noted on 3 days in the western lowlands and lower foothills.

Black-and-white Seedeater *Sporophila luctuosa*: A group of a dozen or birds was noted near Nuevo Paraiso.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis*: Sighted on 3 days, in Buenaventura (in the west) and near Palanda.

Paramo Seedeater *Catamenia homochroa (GO)*: Sam briefly saw a pair above Saraguro.

Red-crested Finch (Red Pileated-Finch) *Coryphospingus cucullatus*: Seen a few times, in the garden at Copalinga Lodge.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*: Regularly encountered, featuring on 6 days, both in the west and east sides of the Andes.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*: Noted on 7 days of the tour, including at the feeders at Copalinga Lodge.

Black-winged Saltator *Saltator atripennis*: 2 were seen along the road into Buenaventura Reserve.

Blue-gray (Grayish) Saltator *Saltator caeruleascens*: A few were seen in Palanda and Nuevo Paraiso.
Recently (2021) split from the Central American forms of what was called Grayish Saltator.

Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus*: Recorded on 5 days of the tour, on both the west and eastern side of the Andes.

Black-cowled Saltator *Saltator nigriceps*: 2 were seen close to the town of Utuana in the southwest highlands.

Slate-colored Grosbeak *Saltator grossus*: A few were seen in the canopy in Maycu.

MAMMALS

White-fronted Capuchn *Cebus albifrons*: A boisterous troop were seen at Copalinga Lodge.

Mantled Howler *Alouatta palliata*: A few were sighted on our first day around Manglares Churute.

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*: 1 was seen at Buenaventura.

Amazon Red Squirrel Sp. *Sciurus sp.*: 1 was found at Copalinga Lodge and in Rio Bombuscaro.

Guayaquil Squirrel *Sciurus stramineus*: Conspicuous at the feeders at Urraca Lodge in the dry forest at Jorupe.

Lowland Paca *Cuniculus paca*: 1 came in at night to feed on corn at Copalinga Lodge.

South American Coati *Nasua nasua*: Extremely tame at Umbrellabird Lodge, in Buenaventura.

Sechura Fox *Lycalopex sechurae*: 1 sloped across the road at Zapotillo.